High court junks Marcos cronies' pleas

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS

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Text message hooks snatcher

BY JEROME ANING

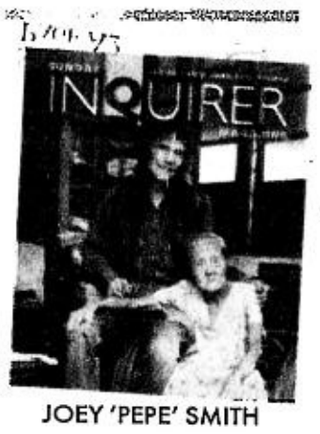
HER text message was so sticky a 40-something woman hooked 17-year-old Jericho.

The sender: Reena Torres, of Sta. Ana, Manila, and elder sister of 38-year-old Manuel

TEXT/ A16

TODAY IN THE INQUIRER

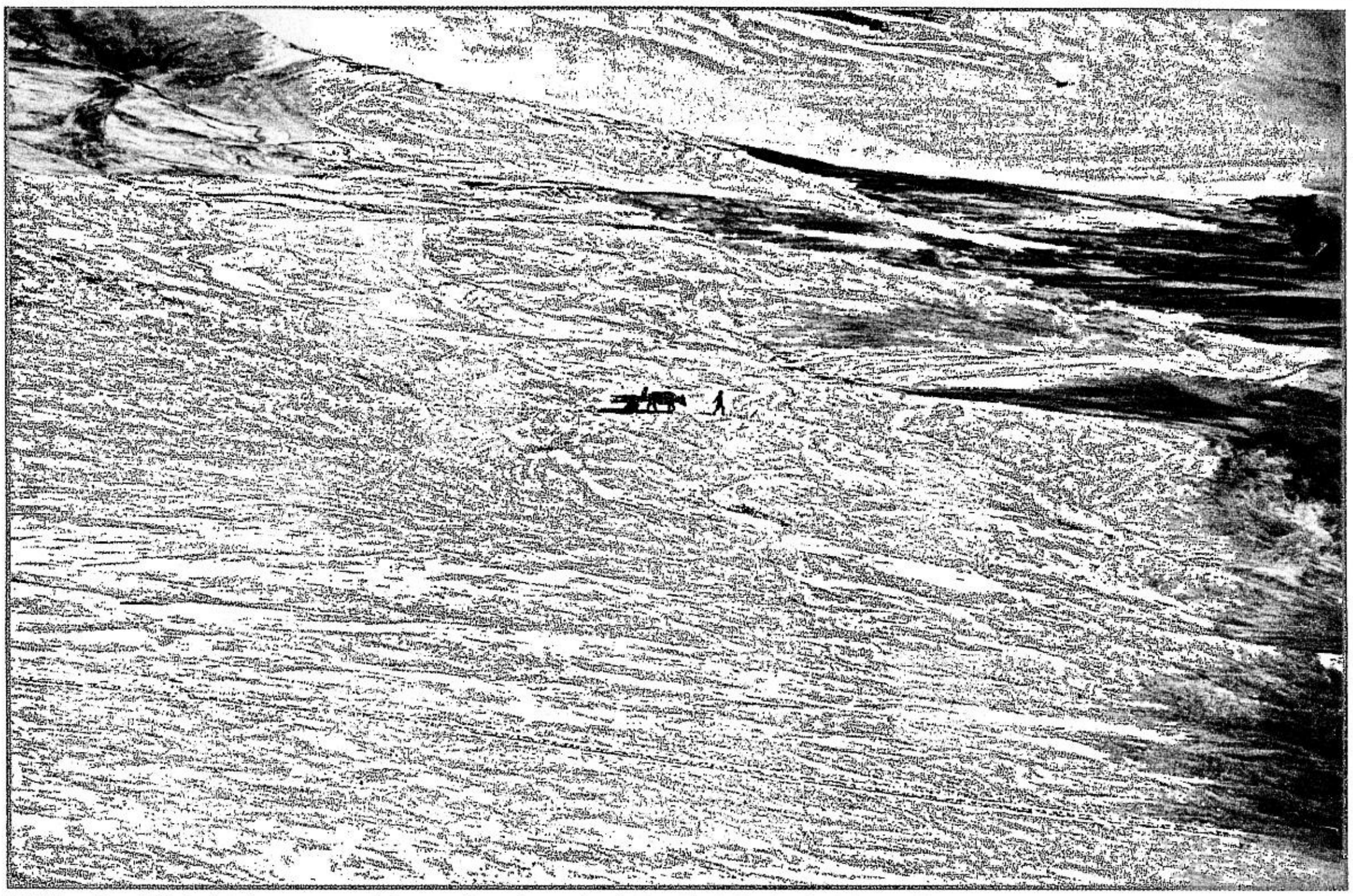
Pepe Smith loves his lola
All about alternative parenthood



JOEY 'PEPE' SMITH

Ping: They're so cruel

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1



A RIVER ran through this desolate desert once, now a laharscape with no signposts for a family making the long lonely trek homeward from an evacuation center in Zambales. EDWIN BACASMAS

Beleaguered senator meets the press at Kim's resto

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

TREATING reporters to dinner Friday at a restaurant owned by suspected drug lord Kim Wong, Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson acknowledged that the money laundering and drug trafficking controversy hounding him was finally taking its toll on his wellbeing.

"Ngayon lang, hirap na hirap na ang katawan ko sa napasukan ko, eh. There are times that I regret having entered politics. And that's a fact. But I'm here now. There are constituents to take care of," said Lacson, a first-term opposition senator.

"My career has been a long roller-coaster ride. I just don't know this time whether I will end (up on top) or come crashing down," the besieged former Philippine National Police chief confided in a rare candid moment.

He said he had received reports that he would be targeted for character assassination as soon as he made his foray into politics, but would not identify the party or parties supposedly behind such a plot.

"There were reports (about a smear job) that reached me, but I never thought it would be this vicious, this cruel and this wicked. I thought that after I was proclaimed, it would subside. It has not only continued, it has become more vicious, more cruel. *Grabe*," he lamented at the dinner, which turned into an impromptu news conference.

PING/ A16

Botolan folk thank Virgin Mary for saving town again

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BOTOLAN, Zambales—Devotees here believe that the Blessed Mother saved this town from the flash floods and lahar avalanches expected from the breaching Thursday of Mt. Pinatubo's crater-lake.

To give thanks for the miracle, devotees of her oldest image in the Philippines, the Ina Poon Bato (Our Lady of the Sacred Rocks), flocked to the Loob-Bunga resettlement site all day yesterday.

They venerated not only the original wooden image but also its two replicas.

In the Aglipayan Church where the original image is preserved, they kissed and touched it, and wiped it with towels and handkerchiefs in the hope of gaining blessings or relief from their afflictions.

And in the Roman Catholic chapel where a replica is enshrined, they recited the rosary and sang joyful songs, offered flowers, and shared home-cooked meals.

They also lighted candles before another, much taller replica, which is now fixed on the bank of a rock-strewn river near the Catholic chapel.

Resident Betty Dumlao and policemen from Camp Olivas, Pampanga, plucked this replica out of the lahar that buried Barangay Poon Bato during the 1991 eruptions of Pinatubo, which are considered among the most violent in the 20th century.

Its hands are locked in prayer, unlike the original image that, according to Aglipayan lay worker Teddy Evangelista, the Aetas secured during their flight weeks before the 1991 eruptions.

The original, with its palms spread, stands less than 3 feet, shorter than its modern replicas by 2 feet.

BOTOLAN/ A15

2-story house is tower of hope for addicts

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

AGAINST a backdrop of Makati skyscrapers, dwarfed by their size, this inconspicuous two-story house is a tower of refuge for drug and alcohol dependents.

The house at 5666 Don Pedro St. in Barangay Poblacion shelters the Family Wellness Center Foundation. It is not a typical rehabilitation center for the people society brands "addicts." It does not have a fence, a gate, barbed wires or bars. It does not even have a sign or a security guard.

Reniel "Rechie" Cristobal, the center's president and executive director, used illegal drugs regularly for 17 years before he was rehabilitated in 1994.

Rechie, 38, started his drug habit when he was 15. At the height of his dependency, he could consume a gram of *shabu* (methamphetamine hydrochloride) in just three hours.

He co-founded the center on Sept. 9, 1999 with his wife, Elena, his father, Rene, and Pablo Araneta, a "substance dependency" specialist with over 10 years experience in treating chemical dependents.

After his recovery, Rechie's life was never the same again. He volunteered as a counselor to help his fellow dependents recover from drug abuse. But he says he discovered that existing rehabilitation facilities lack the proper approaches to the problem.

"Most of the facilities don't prepare an addict for his re-integration into the society after treatment. Without the 'coping' skills, the former addict eventually goes back to his dependency," says Rechie, now father to a 9-year-old girl and a 4-year-old boy.

He saw the need for a rehabilitation center that would involve family members in the treatment process. With the help of his family, he studied addiction treatment at the Harvard Medical School

2-STORY/ A16

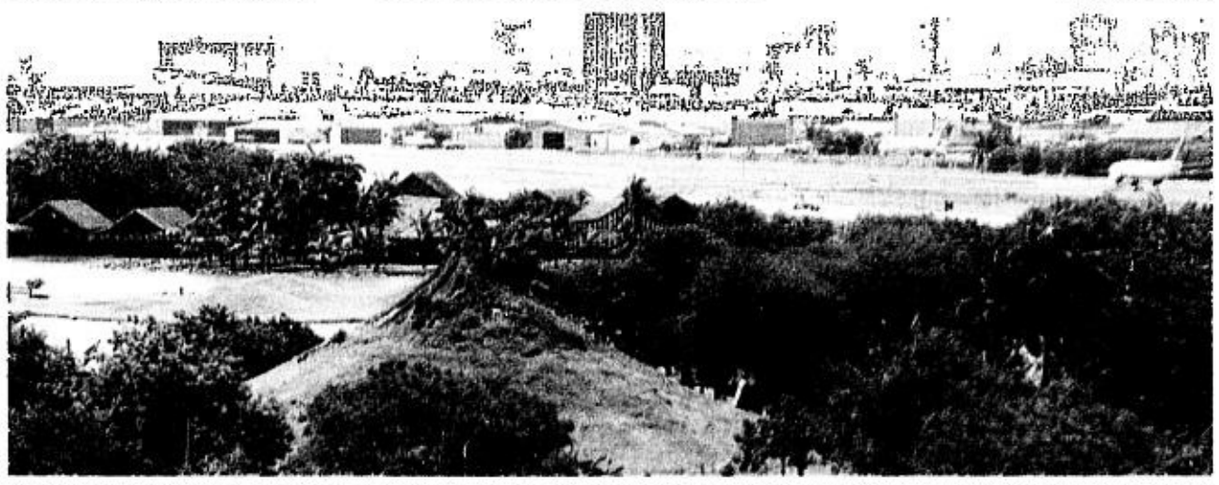
For only ₱15, see RP wonders and much more

BY TJ BURGONIO

FOR the first time in years, tourists, students and promenaders are considering the Nayong Pilipino in Pasay City a big deal.

And why shouldn't they? For only P15 and P5, adults and children, respectively, can gawk at replicas of the country's wonders as well as cultural and historic structures and artifacts while leisurely strolling through the sprawling, tree-dotted theme park.

FOR/ A15



SEE the Philippines cheap. But a portion of Nayong Pilipino will be relocated to make way for the expansion of the international and domestic airports and the construction of a four-story shopping mall. ROGER MARGALLO

Second FRONT PAGE

DOLLAR SALTING CASE

SC junks Marcos cronies' pleas

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE SUPREME Court has junked the petitions of two cronies of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos seeking the dismissal of 24 dollar-salting cases filed by the government in 1991 and 1992.

The charges stemmed from the failure of Roberto Benedicto, Hector Rivera and Imelda Marcos, Marcos' widow, to report their regular interest earnings from foreign exchange accounts, among them a $50-million investment in Zurich, Switzerland, in violation of Central Bank Circular No. 960.

In the Sept. 4 decision, the SC 2nd Division upheld the consolidated decision of the Court of Appeals and the Manila Regional Trial Court to deny the motions to quash the complaints in 24 cases.

"We find that no reversible error of law may be attributed to the CA in upholding the orders of the trial court denying the motion to quash. In our view, none of the grounds provided for in the Rules of Court upon which petitioners rely, finds application in this case," said the decision penned by Associate Justice Leonardo Quisumbing.

'Terminated'

But the court, in the same decision, "terminated" the criminal and civil liability of Benedicto, on account of his death on May 15, 2000, before a final judgment could be handed down.

The charges against Benedicto, particularly in criminal case Nos. 91-101879 to 91-101883, 91-101884 to 1011892, and 92-101959 to 92-101969, before Branch 26 of the Manila RTC, were ordered dismissed.

This leaves only Imelda Marcos and Rivera answerable for the dollar-salting charges. The appellate court has already dismissed Criminal Case No. 91-101884.

On Dec. 27, 1991, the three respondents were indicted for violation of Section 10 of Central Bank Circular No. 960.

The charge sheets alleged that the trio failed to submit reports of their foreign exchange earnings from abroad without prior authorization from the Central Bank.

From Sept. 1, 1983 to 1987, the accused, allegedly in collusion with Ferdinand Marcos, failed to report their interest earnings from foreign exchange accounts in foreign banks within 90 days from Oct. 21, 1983, as mandated by CB Circular 960.

In one other case, Imelda and Benedicto did not inform the Central Bank (now the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) of their interest earnings from a $50-million investment in the Bank Hofmann, AG in Zurich, for the benefit of Avertina Foundation.

Front organization

The foundation served as their front organization, which was established for economic advancement with a secret foreign exchange account category, according to one of the charge sheets.

The charge sheet said the Marcos couple received an interest of $2,267,892 on Dec. 16, 1985, which was remitted to Bank Hofmann, AG, through Citibank in New York, in the United States, to be credited to the Avertina account.

The Marcoses also ordered the redemption of $25 million (half of the original $50 million), which was remitted out of the Philippines in the amounts of $7.4 million and $17.4 million on Dec. 18, 1985.

The money was allegedly used for further investment outside the country without first complying with the CB reporting/registering requirements.

The other charge sheets were similarly worded except for the dates when the offenses were allegedly committed, the names of the alleged dummy or dummies, the amounts maintained in the foreign exchange accounts, and the names under which such foreign bank accounts were held by the accused.

Back from exile

In 1993, the government allowed Benedicto and Rivera to return from exile to stand trial for the charges.

But in 1994, nearly six months after they were arraigned, the petitioners moved to quash all the information (complaints).

They cited the alleged lack of jurisdiction of the Manila court, forum shopping, extinction of criminal liability with the repeal of CB Circular 960, prescription, exemption from the CB's reporting requirement, and the grant of absolute immunity as a result of a compromise agreement with the government covering the Sandiganbayan cases.

The Manila court denied their motion. This prompted the petitioners and Imelda Marcos to file two separate petitions for certiorari with the CA.

On May 23, 1996, the CA dismissed the petitions and ruled that the trial court and the CA did not commit grave abuse of discretion in denying petitioners' motions to quash.

The trio elevated the case to the SC.

But the high court ruled that the Manila court had jurisdiction to hear and try dollar-salting cases since under Presidential Decree 1606, offenses punishable by imprisonment of not more than six years fall within the jurisdiction of the trial courts, not the Sandiganbayan.

Forum-shopping

The SC said government prosecutors did not commit forum-shopping since the offenses charged referred to two or more unrelated laws, Circular 960 and RA 3019 (the anti-graft law).

The high court stressed that the government could still prosecute the respondents despite the repeal of Circular 960 by Circulars 1318 and 1353 as the latter retained the same reportorial requirement.

The high court also ruled that the petitioners could not invoke immunity from suit on the basis of a compromise agreement with the government.

Quisumbing said nothing in the record showed that interest earnings from foreign exchange deposits in foreign banks, the subject matter of the case in question, were "treated, mentioned, or included" in the compromise agreement.

The high court also stressed that the eight-year prescriptive period for the filing of the cases had not yet run out since the reckoning period should start from 1986, when the Marcoses were ousted from power, and not from the dates when the offenses were allegedly committed.

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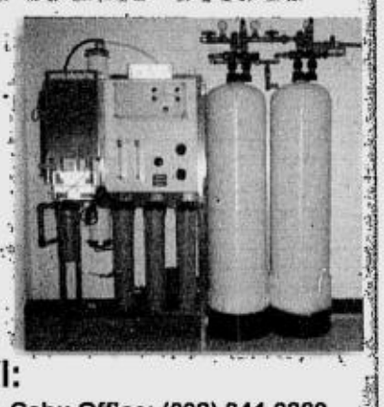

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A CALL FOR CIVILITY AND HARMONY

The past days we experienced a difficult stage in the life of Adamson University. We have to make hard decisions which affect the entire University community. These were neither arbitrary nor capricious. In making the decisions, foremost in our minds is our responsibility and commitment to continue serving the students who are the main reason for the University's continued existence. The University Administration can not compromise this commitment. It is either we continue to serve in a harmonious manner or not at all. Thus, any activity that unduly and illegally hampers the ability of the University to honor this commitment to students and their parents has to be dealt with no matter how painful the decisions may be.

Corollary to its commitment to serve the students, the University Administration recognizes its responsibility to give due attention to the needs of the faculty and the co-academic employees. Thus, the Administration remains open to all possible means in resolving legitimate problems and issues affecting its relations with the Union. This must be done, however, within the legal framework and without disrupting services to our students. To disregard this principle would mean an invitation to anarchy and administrative chaos.

The University is a community of teachers, students, co-academic employees and administrators. It is only through harmonious relationship among these groups that the University can become fruitful in pursuing its educative mission.

But the pursuit of harmony is not without costs. There are laws to be followed and rules and procedures to adhere to. It is an elementary principle in a civilized community that such laws are respected. Failure or refusal to follow such laws is tantamount to disrespect to the rights of others belonging to such community. Any community, which can not resolve its problems in a civilized and lawful manner loses its right to exist in the society it is in. And any person who shows disrespect to civility and order loses his right to belong to such community. Adamson University is no exception. Therefore, it is the duty of the Administration to maintain civility and order for the sake of the entire community. In pursuing such objective, nobody becomes indispensable.

The University Administration is aware of the many issues and concerns raised by the Union. To those issues that we can respond expeditiously, we did so accordingly. However, there are issues that take time to resolve and which need careful study. For these we ask for patience and understanding.

The University Administration should not be intimidated into taking certain positions, which may be convenient for the moment, but which may be detrimental to the very principles that the university is founded on. It would be a tragedy if the University compromises its principles for then it loses its reasons for being.

We are also aware that elements outside of the university community are interfering in the efforts of the University to resolve its problems. Such outside elements have their own agenda that may not be compatible with the interests of the Adamson Community. Fomenting unrest and disunity by giving the present situation elements of a class war is opportunistic. The University Administration refuses to be goaded into committing actions that will serve the hidden interests of these outside elements.

We assure all our students, their parents, our partner teachers and co-academic employees that the University Administration will continue to be true to its commitment to be of service to all in an environment of civility and harmony. As we give this assurance we enjoin all to continue their respective tasks and contribute positively to the educative mission of the University.

ISANG PANAWAGAN PARA SA PAGGAGALANGAN, KAPAYAPAAN AT PAGKAKAISA

Nitong mga nakaraang araw, ang Pamantasan ng Adamson ay dumaraan sa isang mahigpit na pagsubok. Sa harap ng ganitong sitwasyon, kinakailangang gumawa ng mga desisyong makakaapekto sa buong komunidad ng Adamson. Isinasaalang-alang sa paggawa ng desisyon ang kapakanan ng mga mag-aaral pagkat naniniwala tayo sa pananagutan at komitment na dapat nating gampanan sa kanila. Hinding-hindi natin maaaring isakripisyo ang komitment at pananagutang ito. Samakatwid, ang anumang gawain na illegal at hahadlang sa kakayahan ng administrasyon na maisakatuparan ang pananagutang ito, hindi lang sa mga mag-aaral, kailangang magdesisyon, gaano man kasakit ang kahinatnan nito.

Kaalinsabay ng komitment na ito na mapaglingkuran ang mga mag-aaral, kinikilala ng pangasiwaan ang pananagutan nito na ibigay ang kaukulang atensyon sa pangangailangan ng mga guro at empleyado. Ang pangasiwaan ay nananatiling bukas sa lahat ng posibleng paraan upang masolusyunan ang lahat ng isyu at suliraning nakaaapekto sa pakikipag-ugnayan nito sa unyon. Kailangan itong gawin, batay sa mga legal na proseso na hindi naaapektuhan ang kapakanan ng mga mag-aaral.

Ang misyon ng Pamantasan ng Adamson ay maisasakatuparan kung ang buong komunidad ng mga guro, mag-aaral, empleyado at ng pangasiwaan ay magkaroon ng magandang pag-uugnayan.

Hindi natin makakamit ang mga ito sa madaling paraan. Mayroon tayong mga batas na kailangang ipatupad at sundin. Ito ang prinsipyong iginagalang sa isang sibilisadong komunidad tulad ng Pamantasan ng Adamson.

Ang hindi pagsunod sa anumang batas ay nangangahulugan ng kawalan ng respeto sa karapatan ng iba pang bahagi ng komunidad. Sinumang taong walang respeto sa katahimikan at kaayusan ay walang karapatang mapabilang sa isang mapayapang komunidad.

Kung gayon, tungkulin ng Pamantasan ng Adamson ang mapanatili ang katahimikan at kaayusan para sa kapakanan ng buong komunidad. Sa pagsasagawa ang layuning ito, walang sinumang itatangi.

Sa kabila nito, tunay na kinikilala ng pangasiwaan ang mga isyung ipinaglalaban ng unyon. May mga isyu na maaaring lutasin kaagad-agad. Haharapin ito. Mayroon din namang mga isyung kailangang pag-aralan at dapat paglaanan ng masusing pag-aaral. Sa mga usaping ito, hinihingi ang inyong pang-unawa.

Kailanman, ang pangasiwaan ay hindi maaaring gumawa ng mga desisyong maaaring makabuti ngayon ngunit magkakaroon ng negatibong epekto sa hinaharap.

Alam naming may mga elementong sumasakay sa mga isyu ng unyon, ngunit may ibang sariling agenda. Hindi natin mapahihintulutan ang mga elementong ito na makialam sa ating sariling mga suliranin.

Sinisiguro namin sa lahat ng mga mag-aaral, sa kanilang mga magulang, sa ating mga guro at iba pang empleyado na ipagpapatuloy ng pangasiwaan ang pananagutan at komitment sa komunidad rta may kaayusan at katahimikan. Gayundin, inaasahan na ang bawat bahagi ng komunidad ay magpapatuloy sa pagsasagawa ng ating mga tungkulin upang maipatupad ang misyon ng institusyong ito ang makapagturo.

REV. FR. JIMMY A. BELITA, C.M.
President

Solon hits smear job by 'Call Boys'

BY VOLT CONTRERAS
AND ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

SMARTING over allegations that he was a member of a "Gang of 5" alleged extortionists in the House, Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo yesterday claimed the "smear job" was part of a conspiracy to thwart a congressional inquiry into the Philippine Long Distance Co.'s buyout of the GMA 7 television network.

Saludo accused PLDT president Manny Pangilinan of leading the conspiracy that also included other House members whom Saludo derisively referred to as PLDT's "Call Boys."

In a statement that he read at the Sulo Hotel weekly press forum, Saludo claimed the "demolition job" was a direct result of his co-filing House Resolution No. 85 questioning the constitutionality of PLDT's acquisition of GMA and calling for an investigation.

"My call for a PLDT probe was a big risk. I courted the ire and punitive retribution of one of the country's biggest, diversified, most powerful and influential conglomerates—PLDT-Smart-Piltel-Infocom, the newly merged Home Cable-Sky Cable network, Metro Pacific, Bonifacio Land Devt., Negros Navigation, GMA Channel 7 and its radio affiliate dzBB, and other companies," Saludo said.

PLDT side

In a press statement yesterday, PLDT denied Saludo's allegations that it was part of a conspiracy to discredit certain members of the House and avert an investigation into the acquisition of GMA 7.

It also clarified that PLDT has not acquired GMA 7, explaining that the transaction is between Mediaquest Holdings, a company owned by the PLDT retirement trust fund and the owners of GMA 7.

"The transaction is still under negotiation and has not been completed or consummated," the statement said, adding that the parties intend to comply with the requirement to secure congressional approval in case of a transfer of controlling interest in GMA 7.

As this developed, Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran yesterday urged Congress to start a formal inquiry into the escalating scandal involving the controversial "Gang of Five."

Wider probe

But the labor leader said Congress should widen the scope of the investigation to include telecom giants Globe and Smart.

Beltran said Congress should look into the telecom companies' alleged violations of the 20-day temporary restraining order issued by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court on the planned text-reduction scheme.

Beltran said Globe and Smart officials should also be made to explain for their alleged attempt to bribe legislators and coerce members of the consumers group TXTPower into backing out of their planned protests against free text cuts.

"The top honchos of these telecoms firms should be made to testify under oath on whether or not they did enter into under-the-table deals with any congressman," Beltran said.

Beltran lamented that the extortion scandal should explode just as Congress was going into a two-week recess.

"A thorough investigation into the accusations is needed, and those implicated in the scandal should try to gain a modicum of calmness and explain themselves. It is precisely this sort of scandal that affirms the corrupt reputation of the Lower House in the eyes of many Filipinos," he lamented.

Demolition job

Saludo said certain "House leaders" were involved in the so-called demolition job, referring to House Majority Leader Rep. Neptali Gonzales Jr. of Mandaluyong and the Senior Deputy Leader, Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero, whom he referred to as a "favorite godson" of Pangilinan.

Gonzales and Escudero, whom Saludo accused of being in cahoots with "dirty trick operators," allegedly gave reporters the names for their Gang of Five stories "to make the sordid story saleable."

The two congressmen were also tagged by Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, another alleged "Gang" member, as the ones who fed the media with the extortion story last week.

Saludo said another former House colleague, Rodolfo Tuazon, who used to chair the committee on franchises, had approached him twice—first to convince him to drop the PLDT inquiry, and second to arrange a meeting with Pangilinan, which Saludo said he rejected.

"The dirty trick played up as 'Gang of Five' is a mere tactic, a ploy in the high stakes game. It is a conspiracy to prevent the truth from seeing the light of day when the House undertakes its investigation into the constitutional violations of PLDT as it embarks into an empire building spree in the country," said Saludo, a corporate lawyer for 40 years.

"I now go on record to accuse PLDT, Smart, Globe Telecom, Islacomm, including some leaders and members of the House of perpetrating a conspiracy to preempt and stop the investigation of violations, abuses and malpractices of telecom companies," Saludo said.

Saludo, together with Representatives Raul Gonzalez, Emilio Espinosa and Gerry Salapuddin, filed a resolution on Aug. 6 calling for an investigation of the GMA purchase which they said violated the constitutional restriction on foreign ownership and management of mass media as PLDT was "owned by a foreign group, the Salim family (of Indonesia) through its vast network of companies under its Hong Kong-based flagship First Pacific Holdings."

SALUDO reads statement while Sen. Aquilino Pimentel looks on.

Gloria launches PNP cleanup

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday announced a campaign to rid the national police force of misfits, among a series of peace-and-order measures designed to eliminate the problems of drugs, kidnapping, smuggling, cell phone theft and prevent the emergence of a "narco-state."

The campaign to cleanse the Philippine National Police is to be based on information unearthed in recent investigations revealing the links of some policemen to drug syndicates, according to the President's instructions.

At the same time, Ms Macapagal urged the public not to condemn the entire police force, saying it would demoralize the organization, a unit that she admitted she "loves" and which loves her in return, she said.

The President made the remarks before participants of a National Consultative Conference on Peace and Order at a Manila hotel.

In her speech, she said that she cannot believe that the men who stood at Edsa 2 and defended Malacañang on May 1 would sell their ideals.

Misfits

"Yes, there may be a few remaining misfits but I believe that with our resolve, their days are numbered," she said.

Ms Macapagal was referring to the Senate investigation looking into allegations that drug syndicates had successfully forged links with some of the top police officials of the previous administration.

The issue of illegal drugs was a "drastic problem that requires drastic measures," said Ms Macapagal.

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Ilusorio sisters file court action to disinherit ma

ILUSORIO sisters Ma. Erlinda and Sylvia have formally moved to disinherit their 81-year-old mother and two other Ilusorio siblings from the estimated P1 billion estate left by businessman Potenciano Ilusorio.

The two sisters have presented an alleged will to the Baguio Regional Trial Court, despite an earlier petition for probate filed by another Ilusorio daughter in Parañaque, the last stated address of the patriarch.

In the alleged last will and testament now being probated in the Baguio court, the late billionaire, who died in a rooster farm in Ibaan, Batangas, on June 28, said he was disinheriting his wife of 59 years for her "grossly abusive behavior."

The alleged will, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, also sought to disinherit eldest child Ramon for having "persistently maltreated me" and daughter Marietta for "leading a dishonorable life."

The alleged will, dated June 8, 1999 and which put the "probable gross value" of the Ilusorio estate at only P25 million, is contrary to the will Jesuit Bishop Federico Escaler said the billionaire showed him three years ago.

Escaler, who gave the eulogy to the memorial mass sponsored by Ma. Erlinda and Sylvia on June 30 in Parañaque's Multinational Village parish church, recounted a number of meetings he had with the patriarch.

"He showed me the will that he wanted probated," Escaler said in his eulogy, copies of which he signed and distributed among family members and friends.

In that will, Ilusorio followed the Family Code, Escaler recalled the billionaire as having told him, "so that each of the children would have their just share of what I will leave behind and also Nena (Potenciano's wife) would have hers."

Before the alleged new will, the patriarch sought in June 1998 to probate in the same Baguio RTC a will similar to what Escaler had described—that will divide the free portion of the Ilusorio estate equally among his six children and his wife.

Three months later, the petition to probate the first Baguio will was withdrawn by the patriarch's counsel.

Incidentally, the will filed in the Parañaque RTC by Shereen, the youngest Ilusorio child, is identical to the first Baguio will.

The family feud erupted in public and became a media spectacle especially after the Ilusorio matriarch filed a petition for habeas corpus and fought a losing battle all the way to the Supreme Court in her desire to be reunited with her husband.

According to Dr. Felipe Tolentino, the Boston-based eye doctor of former Presidents Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada as well as the Ilusorios, the patriarch had been "legally blind" and already suffering from Alzheimer's disease with dementia Lewy body as well as Parkinson's disease when he was taken by daughters Ma. Erlinda and Sylvia from the Ilusorio conjugal home in Antipolo in May 1998.

OUTSTANDING TEACHERS EDWIN BACASMAS

President Macapagal-Arroyo and Metrobank Foundation chair George Go pose with the Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Teachers 2001 awardees in recent ceremonies in Malacañang. The awardees are: (elementary) Ninie del Rosario, Lavina Laforga, Jean Borlagdan, Carmen Salazar, and Johann Cawaling; (high school) Evelyn Caja, Shirley Jusayan, Benjamin Paragas and Gersim Lumintac; (college) Ricardo Abad, Graciano Yumul and Ma. Nuria Castells. The President conferred the awards on the outstanding teachers.

Ilocanos' long wait for tobacco tax over

CANDON CITY, Ilocos Sur—The long wait is over for the four Virginia tobacco producing provinces after President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the release of P900 million as part of the share of the provinces from Republic Act 7171 or the tobacco excise tax law.

The fund, whose release was strongly lobbied by congressional representatives of Northern Luzon, would be used to rehabilitate Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, Abra and La Union—the major Virginia tobacco producing provinces affected by the devastation of typhoon "Feria" on July 4.

Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson, on behalf of the Northern Luzon congressmen, thanked the President for the fund's release.

"It is very timely since the four provinces are in dire need of funds for their rehabilitation as caused by typhoon Feria," he said.

It is the first effort of the Northern Luzon bloc in the House of Representatives, composed of 29 congressmen and women from Ilocos, Cagayan Valley and the Cordillera who earlier vowed to unite for the good of their provinces and regions.

Singson said much of the funds would be used to support agricultural programs in their districts.

Ms Macapagal, in her visit to Vigan City in June during the birthday celebration of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, asked the recipients of tobacco funds to prioritize irrigation projects.

The tobacco levy funds are the biggest sources of funds for the governments of the four provinces. ***Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

INVESTMENT TALK

Speaker Jose de Venecia (left) is briefed by William R. Berkley (right) founder, chair and chief executive officer of W.R. Berkley Corp., a $5-billion property and casualty insurance company, of his company's expansion in Southeast Asia with Manila as the regional hub as well as new investments and expansion plans of its Philippine subsidiaries Berkley Family Plans Phils.-Family First Inc. Berkley was recently in Manila to meet with government officials and executives of his company.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, September 9, 2001
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Wis 9:13-18**

Indeed, what man can know the intentions of God? Who can discern the plan of the Lord?

For human reasoning is timid, our notions misleading; a perishable body is a burden for the soul and our tent of clay weighs down the active mind.

We are barely able to know about the things of earth and it is a struggle to understand what is close to us; who then may hope to understand heavenly things?

Who has ever known your will unless you first gave him Wisdom and sent down your holy spirit to him? In this way you directed the human race on the right path; they learned what pleases you and were saved by Wisdom.

2nd Reading: **Phlm 9-10, 12-17**

Yet I prefer to request you in love. The one talking is Paul, the old man, now prisoner for Christ. And my request is on behalf of Onesimus, whose father I have become while I was in prison.

In returning him to you, I am sending you my own heart. I would have liked to keep him at my side, to serve me on your behalf while I am in prison for the Gospel, but I did not want to do anything without your agreement, nor impose a good deed upon you without your free consent.

Perhaps Onesimus has been parted from you for a while so that you may have him back forever, no longer as a slave, but better than a slave. For he is a very dear brother to me, and he will be even dearer to you. And so, because of our friendship, receive him as if he were I myself.

Gospel: **Lk 14:25-33**

One day, when large crowds were walking along with Jesus, he turned and said to them, "If you come to me, without being ready to give up your love for your father and mother, your spouse and children, your brothers and sisters, and indeed yourself, you cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not follow me carrying his own cross cannot be my disciple.

Do you build a house without first sitting down to count the cost to see whether you have enough to complete it? Otherwise, if you have laid the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone will make fun of you: This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

And when a king wages war against another king, does he go to fight without first sitting down to consider whether his ten thousand can stand against the twenty thousand of his opponent? And if not, while the other is still a long way off he sends messengers for peace talks. In the same way, none of you may become my disciple if he doesn't give up everything he has."

Commentary:

In our times, there is a reawakening of the value of keeping the family intact for the sake of the children. For children to grow normally, their parents must have close contact with them, physically and psychologically. Experience tells us many teenagers can't find their identity because of unhappy childhood. In the midst of clamor to strengthen the bonds of the family ties, however, here comes Jesus asking us to leave our loved ones if we really want to follow him. Is there a contradiction between following Christ and being close to our parents, brothers and sisters? No. Jesus is stating a fact that to follow Christ entails sacrifice. One leaves many things behind for the sake of a higher value: the kingdom of God.

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Produce own water, Lina tells local gov'ts

DAVAO CITY—Interior Secretary Jose Lina urged Local Government Units not to buy bottled water anymore but instead develop their capability to produce clean water through links with the private sector.

Lina said that all local governments should have a "scientific extraction and purification water system" because some of them rely too much on bottled water.

He said money spent on bottled water could instead be used for better things.

Lina was here for the 10th International Conference and Exhibition on Water Resource Management organized by the Philippine Water Works Association Inc.

He said the interior department has $300 million in funds, which would be extended to local government units wanting to develop their own water extraction and purification system.

"That's only the minimum amount, there are other funding agencies like the Asian Development Bank and World Bank which will serve as conduits," Lina said.

He said LGUs would only have to present to the DILG their own plan to extract and distribute water among their households.

Lina said the existence of bottling companies alone is an indication that the country has a poor water distribution system.

"The Philippines is 50 years behind compared to other countries (in water extraction and distribution), and 50 years from now, wars would erupt with water as a cause," he said.

He said the country should address the problem now instead of waiting for it to worsen. ***Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

ENVOY'S DECORATION

President Macapagal-Arroyo confers a presidential decoration on Ambassadors Felipe Mabilangan Jr., who has served as the country's ambassador to Geneva, Paris, Beijing and the United Nations. Present during the recent conferment ceremonies at Malacañang are Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Ada Ledesma Mabilangan.

NEWSBRIEFS

Jung psychology courses

PEOPLE can learn how to grow beautiful rose bushes by taking short courses on horticulture. So is it with other interests. Short courses on the art of ikebana or painting in watercolor can do wonders to put people on the path to creativity and self-realization. Now, to help people learn how to discover their inner selves and how their growth processes affect relationships, short and easy-to-grasp courses on Jungian psychology are being offered by the Friends of Jung Society. Courses explore the inner or invisible world of the psyche, and subjects range from helping persons understand their individuation process or his or her journey to knowing the "self" through archetypes. Specific seminars are scheduled Sept. 13-14, Sept. 20-21, and Sept. 26-28 at the Ayala Museum in Makati from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. this month. For reservations, call 892-4610 through Miss Marina. The faculty includes Doctors Dido Gustilo, Bernie Nepomuceno, Sophie Sim Bate and Rose Marie Yenko.

RP studies in Alcala

THE 4TH European Conference on Philippine Studies opens on Sept. 9 in Alcala, Spain, with the theme "The Philippines in Southeast Asia and Beyond." Hosted by the Universidad de Alcala and Asociacion Espanola de Estudios del Pacific, the conference seeks to raise the awareness of Philippine studies in Europe and enhance contact between Filipino and European scholars. Twenty-six panels are taking part in the conference. The panel convenors are Wilfrido Villacorta, Bernardita Reyes Churchill, Felice Noelle Rodriguez, Samuel Ruiz, Willem Wolters, Raul Pertierra, Florentino Radao, Antonio Garcia-Abasolo, Emma Porio, Jeanne Frances Illo, Francisco Giner Abati and Charles MacDonald, Michael Mastura, Luis Alonso Alvarez, Carolina G. Hernandez, Greg Bankoff, Xavier Huetz de Lemps, Joaquin Ibanez, Fernando N. Zialcita, Asti Wright, Paz Buenaventura, Naylor and Penelope V. Flores, Armando Malay Jr. and Vivencio Jose, Nick Barker, Eva-Lotta Hedman and Belinda A. Aquino. The site of the conference—ongoing until Sept. 12—is Alcala de Henares, birthplace of Miguel de Cervantes and repository of archival materials on the Philippines. The Universidad de Alcala was founded in the 15th century and is the first planned university town in the world.

DLSU tops Marketing Olympics

DE LA Salle University capped a string of victories by topping the National Marketing Week as overall champion recently at the Glorietta Activity Area. Participants from DLSU dominated almost all events and contests including the amusing "Who Wants to be a Marketer?" quiz bee named after the popular television show/contest. The Junior Entrepreneurs' Marketing Association (JEMA), the official marketing organization of DLSU, selected and trained members of the winning teams. Participants came from 25 other colleges/universities. Dubbed the "Marketing Olympics," the activity is organized annually by the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) for the advancement of Marketing Education in the Philippines. This year's celebration centered on the theme: Millennium Shift II: Beyond Breakthrough. *Esther Claudine Lim*

RP-British society meeting

THE PHILIPPINE British Society Inc. (PBS) will hold its annual general membership meeting on Sept. 20 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City. Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Allan Collins and Philippine Army commanding general Jaime de los Santos are among the invited guests. PBS president Francis C. Neri said that all members in good standing will be allowed to vote and will be notified by mail or fax. Members in good standing are those who have regularly paid their annual membership dues and are still in the active members roster. Under the stewardship of Neri and vice president Ian Sargeant, the PBS elicited presidential proclamation 381 declaring Dec. 7 as Philippine British Friendship Day.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Credibility of witness' testimony—The evaluation of the credibility of witnesses by the trial court will not be disturbed on appeal unless it is shown that it overlooked certain facts or circumstances of substance that, if considered, could have affected the results of the case. Inconsistencies as to minor details and collateral matters do not affect the credibility of the witnesses nor the veracity or weight of their testimonies. Such minor inconsistencies may even serve to strengthen their credibility as they negate any suspicion that the testimonies have been rehearsed. In the witness' case, the alleged inconsistencies in his testimony can be explained by his age, his inexperience with court proceedings and the relative darkness of the place at the time of the occurrence of the incident. This Court has recognized that even the most candid of witnesses commit mistakes and make confused and inconsistent statements. This is especially true with young witnesses who could be overwhelmed by the atmosphere of the courtroom. Hence, there is more reason to accord them an ample space for inaccuracy. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, People v. Amazan, G.R. Nos. 136251, 138606, 138607, January 16, 2001]

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OPINION

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Founding Chairman

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The sky's flooding

OTHER than the shocking saga in the Senate, there's the shocking condition of Baguio City and environs—the Philippines' window to the sky—falling under water during a recent typhoon. How a city thousands of feet above sea level can assume nautical features at the mere contact with rains is a monument to greed and mismanagement. Before it was drowned in monsoon rains, Baguio had been drowning in poor public planning and misguided urban management.

EDITORIALS

To be sure, Baguio is an ecological disaster waiting to happen. Lackluster enforcement of environmental laws, population pressures, unregulated diesel-fed vehicles, untrammeled zoning violations and prostitution by authorities of the city's charter have conspired to undermine the city. Once an environmental showcase, Baguio has become an environmental nightmare.

But the nightmare can be checked, the disaster averted. An educational center in Northern Luzon, Baguio teems with academics whose expertise can be tapped to formulate creative ways to solve the problems of an urban behemoth. The energies of its young, highly educated populace can be trained at environmental rehabilitation. A center of arts and culture, Baguio is also in a good position to drum up awareness of the need to arrest the city's ecological decline.

Baguio itself can draw from the resources of its own beautiful environment to save its environment. The environment after all is ever renewing. But renewal presupposes a breathing chance, a time to recover. The people of Baguio need to provide that respite. If they fail, they seal their own doom.

Ifugao example

BAGUIO, in fact, needs to learn from the Ifugao rice terraces the value of building from—not in spite of—the environment. An engineering marvel, the terraces were built some 3,000 years ago and continue to exist and function up to now.

Just enlisted to the Unesco World Cultural and Natural List, the terraces were built as a matter of necessity. Trying to survive in a limited space, the Ifugaos made rice fields out of the precipitous slopes of mountains. Unlike slash-and-burn farmers who destroy in order to create, or better still, unlike developers who bulldoze and flatten mountains, the Ifugaos built around the mountains, respecting the natural contours of the terrain, preserving their nature and their function.

Using simple tools, the Ifugaos carved from the mountains and employed their instinctive knowledge of hydraulic technology to create the world's most extraordinary system of rice terracing. Utilizing gravity, the terraces cascade their waters in a primitive but effective irrigation system. No water puddle is big enough to cause the collapse of the slopes. No flooding occurs. Every inch is well preserved and well managed.

The terraces even thrive during droughts. The Ifugaos use every atom of water before it is released to the lowland. They have a complex network of irrigation systems, from micro-canals to large streams. Irrigation water is brought from great distances by ingenious stone-lined channels and bamboo aqueducts that cross canyons and chasms and snake around mountains.

The Ifugao social system is also friendly to the environment. Its *changah* or self-help system binds Ifugaos together, making them share and help one another in case of a deluge or a drought.

The system also teaches the value of frugality and economizing. The limits and cycle of nature are the bases of food production and consumption. They not only ensure the wise and efficient use of resources, but also that nothing is wasted.

The Ifugao terraces, of course, have problems. Creeping modernization is threatening to divide the generations so that younger Ifugaos don't feel the need to farm the terraces and see to their continuity. Earthworms that were apparently introduced when new strains of rice were used after the war are loosening the soil that centuries of Ifugao stonemasonry skills have held together.

But Ifugao environmental ingenuity is coping with the threats so far. This hardy race of people shows the way out of the environmental mess that Baguio and cities like it have, by their own willful stupidity, delivered themselves to.

Grammar lessons again

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I WAS talking to some ladies recently who informed me that the topic they liked best in my column was the grammar reminders. So let's take a brief respite from the hassle of our current problems and talk about something more pleasant, like some gaffes of our telecasters, announcers and politicians.

I shall state at the outset that I'm no maven like William Safire, who has acquired quite a following with his breezy comments on the English language and its oddities. He has many dissenters, too, whom he has accepted with good grace and humor. Me, I'm no expert on my acquired language. What I'm expert on is correcting mistakes, like a grade school teacher telling her pupils what's wrong. She also tells them what's right, bless her, and her believing tots are all the wiser.

I've said this many times, but some announcers insist on calling Larry Henares HEN-ares. Either they've forgotten their Spanish 1 or the much-protested Spanish Law had been repealed when they entered college. HEN should be EN, with the "h" as silent as Sen. Gregorio Honasan when his colleagues are debating. Somebody should tell me why "h" is in the Spanish alphabet when the letter has no sound of its own. Anyway, it's "oras" even if it's spelled "horas" and "ombre" although it is written as "hombre." The "h" is useful only in such words as "leche" and "derecho."

In English, the pronunciation also gets awry at times, in fact many times. ("Awry" is like the Tagalog, "aray," as in ouch, not "owe-ree" to follow the spelling.) A frequently mispronounced word is "AP-plicable," where the accent should be on the first syllable, as in "CER-emony." Many people pronounce it "ap-PLIC-able," which is wrong, like "com-PAR-able" when it should be "COM-parable." "Award" is another culprit. I've seldom heard it pronounced correctly, with the second "a" sounding like an "o" instead of an "a" as in "aver." Ditto for "war," "warn," "pall" and "mall." Remember City Hall or a hole in the wall. And ball.

I heard a top police officer telling his audience on television to "be rest assured" that a certain crime was being investigated. Coming from a PMA graduate, that was a whopper. "Rest assured" is the correct form; "be" is unnecessary. "Rest" is the verb, "assured" the adjective and "be" the interloper. If you like to use "be," then say "Be assured," without the "rest." In the phrase that assures, "be" and "rest" are interchangeable verbs and should not be used together.

We often come across advertisements urging potential customers to avail of this big bargain or this special sale. There is a missing word: "yourselves." When it means to take advantage of something, "avail" must be accompanied by a personal pronoun and the preposition "of." Thus, "The rascal availed himself of the extraordinary opportunity to rob the people blind." If you simply say, "He availed of the opportunity, etc.," he may plead in extenuation that he did not rob the people for himself. That would be legal gobbledygook. Of course, "avail" may also be used as a noun, in which case the just-mentioned rule doesn't apply. Thus, it's correct to say, "His protestations of innocence were of no avail." Everybody still believes he's a crook.

We lawyers are fond of redundancy. "Null and void," is an essential part of our vocabulary, as well as overspeak like, "his heirs, legatees, devisees, executors, administrators, successors and assigns." The vendor does not simply sell; he "hereby sells, transfers, cedes, conveys and assigns, by way of absolute sale, the herein-above described property." Enough already. Don't say "redundant, superfluous and tautological" like ex-Senator Miriam. In other words, don't be a show-off. Be direct; economize on words. Simply say, "Shoot her at the Luneta" and be done with it.

There was a popular song some years ago that should have been summarily executed for murdering the language. The singer crooned soulfully that something or other was "for you and I," which must have turned off his loved one, who was probably an English teacher. He should have sung "you and me" as the object of the preposition "for," but his lapsed syntax had irrevocably killed the romance between him and she. "You and me are over," he ruefully admitted, "because your love is not for I."

Spelling is something on which my editors and I don't always agree. I prefer the modern spelling but they are more conservative. The rule I follow is that when the accent falls on the first syllable of the word, the terminal consonant is not doubled in the past or progressive tense; otherwise, it is. Accordingly, I spell it "canceled," "worshiped" and "kidnaped," but my copy is often revised to read "cancelled," "worshipped" and "kidnapped." These are also correct per Webster, but not the preferred spelling. Of course, you must double the final consonant when the accent falls on the last syllable, as in "occurring," but not when it's the first syllable that is accented, as in "offering."

I know Robert Louis Stevenson called his novel "Kidnapped," but he was writing in the 19th century.

Announcers and telecasters should be especially careful about their grammar and pronunciation because they are likely to scatter their mistakes through the airwaves nation-wide. Anchors who use "at this point in time" have spread that contagion throughout the land. Better to speak Pilipino only if you don't know much English like Senator What's His Name.

Finally do not add the usual "s" to indicate the plural of some words like "counsel," furniture," "bedding," "linen," "jewelry" and "footage." Except for "counsel," they are understood as a collection of parts, like "china" denoting plates and saucers and cups. On the other hand, some words are usually employed in the plural form only, such as "shambles," to indicate disorder, and "data" because the singular "datum" sounds miserly and pedantic.

I'm making notes for future grammar pointers. Meantime, write me some of your own observations, and also if you disagree with me. As Mrs. Malaprop might have said, Speak up—don't be a shyster.

Carry your cross

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

I WAS feeling burdened one day, when I happened to see on the street a man carrying on his back a wooden bed as he was walking. You must have seen someone like this yourself. At first I could not figure out what he was up to, until I realized that he was going around to sell the bed.

What a way to make a living. You have to give it to the guy, that is no easy task. What if he did not dispose of the bed? Will he carry it back home and carry it around again the next day? Well, at least he could sit or lie on it if he got tired, or maybe seek shelter under it if it rained.

Engrossed with these thoughts, I began to realize that my burdens were nothing compared to his. In a very simple way he made me realize what Jesus is saying in today's Gospel: "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." (Lk. 14, 25-33)

* * *

When you're weary, feeling small, when tears are in your eyes, don't look down. Look up, and look around you! Looking down makes us wallow in our feelings of depression and self-pity. It makes us concentrate on ourselves, and that is precisely what the evil one wants us to do to make us selfish and self-centered. If you look up, you realize that there is Someone bigger than your misery and your problems, and that, in fact, He cares. He knows. He has a plan. He has a reason. And He holds the key to your misery and problems.

Reminds me of a sharing by Fr. Francis Vega, SVD about the time when he was a missionary in Papua New Guinea. On a bush patrol with some school kids, they had to cross a river that had only one thin log for a bridge. When it was his turn, his knees started to shake as he looked down on the raging waters. A child from the other end hollered, "Father, don't look down, look up!" Following the advice "from the mouth of babes," he made it through.

* * *

When burdened, don't look down. Look around. There are so many people who have more real and heavier problems than you. The best antidote to feelings of depression is to concentrate on the burdens of other people. Forget yourself, your burdens and reach out to others in need, and you will be healed. Think of the happiest people you have met in this life; they are the ones who have the ability to forget themselves. Think of the most miserable people in this world; they are the ones who are always focused on themselves, their misery and their problems. *Puede ba*, forget yourself *muna*. So many people around you are suffering *na*.

* * *

According to a *tsismisology* report I received, all that the people do in hell is complain, complain and complain. So if you are a person who always complains, *nagprapraktis ka na* for hell! In fact, a person who always complains makes his own hell already on earth, and makes hell for others too.

Remember the story of a man who went to heaven? St. Peter called him to an anteroom filled with so many crosses of different shapes, different colors and different shades. St. Peter told him to choose which cross he would like to carry if he were to go back to earth and live again. He took a long time to choose. Finally, he pointed at a cross in one corner. St. Peter asked him " Is that your final answer? Sure?" When he said yes, St. Peter told him, "My child, don't you know that that was the very same cross you were carrying while you were still on earth, and you were always complaining and complaining."

The lesson of the story is that instead of complaining, you should take up whatever cross you have now and trust in the Lord who has given you that cross. He knows that you can handle it. Don't make it heavier by complaining.

* * *

Are you a cross to other people? Do you make life difficult for others? Are you the cause of hurts and division among your loved ones? Life is hard enough for others already. Don't make it more difficult for them. Don't double their cross. If you do that, that makes you a double-crosser, right?

* * *

It is all right to share your cross with other people, but it is not all right to keep on broadcasting and rewinding your cross at every given opportunity. People have their own crosses to bear. Don't bore them. Treat your cross like you would your toothbrush. It is better to keep it to yourself and for yourself.

* * *

Sept. 15 is the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. Mama Mary had many pains and sorrows, but she remained strong and stayed beautiful through it all because she held on to God, and to God's will. Mama Mary has shown us that it is possible to stay good and beautiful in spite of the cross, because of the cross. May the Holy Cross triumph in our lives.

* * *

As we remember with gratitude the late Fr. Rufus Haley from Ireland, let us also remember our Filipino missionaries "out there" who have left home, country and family, braving deprivation, loneliness and even persecution for the Gospel. They are our gift to the world. Please pray for our missionaries. Please help us at the Mission Office to support them. Call Tel. Nos. 721-7457 or 727-1160 or e-mail jorbos@manila-online.net

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, may the cross I carry help me become a better, not a bitter, person. Amen.

A new agency to fight the drug menace

CROSSCURRENTS

Antonio T. Carpio

THE SENATE inquiry into the alleged criminal activities of Sen. Panfilo Lacson is mired in convoluted charges and counter charges that so far are mostly unsubstantiated. Strangely, from this confusion has emerged a very clear picture that the Philippine National Police, the agency principally tasked to combat drug trafficking, is totally unfit to investigate illegal trade in drugs.

Two former PNP chiefs, Roberto Lastimoso and Lacson, have been linked to the illegal drug trade. Several senior PNP officers, including former Narcotics Group chief Reynaldo Acop, are accused of coddling drug traffickers and even engaging in the illegal drug trade. Although the charges against these police officers remain to be proven, we can only conclude that the PNP is now too discredited, too linked with the triads, that it should immediately be stripped of its mandate to fight the drug menace.

Congress should forthwith enact a law creating a completely new agency to combat drug trafficking. This new agency, reporting directly to the President, should have primary jurisdiction to investigate drug trafficking. The existing PNP and other law enforcement agencies may investigate drug trafficking only if their assistance is requested by this new agency. Otherwise, the PNP and other agencies should focus their investigations only on crimes not involving illegal drugs.

None of the officers and men who will man this new anti-drug trafficking agency should come from the PNP. The personnel of this new agency should be recruited from fresh graduates, preferably from the Philippine Military Academy and the University of the Philippines College of Law. None of the personnel should be graduates of the Philippine National Police Academy because of the mindset of PNPA graduates that they should not squeal on fellow PNPA graduates.

Congress should give this new agency a very generous budget—both for the salaries of its personnel as well as for the acquisition of state-of-the-art equipment. The salaries of the agency's personnel should be exempt from the Salary Standardization Law. All positions in the agency should be declared confidential so that all its personnel would have no security of tenure and could be fired any time for loss of confidence. This will make it reasonably difficult for the triads to corrupt the agency's personnel. As an incentive, 20 percent of the money that may be recovered by the agency from drug lords should be retained by the agency to fund its operations. A similar incentive is enjoyed by US agencies fighting drug trafficking and money laundering.

Only a brand-new anti-drug trafficking force, untainted by past skirmishes or relations with the triads, can gain the confidence and support of the people in the war against illegal drugs. Given the apparent penetration by the triads into all levels of the PNP, Congress and the Executive have no other choice but to organize a totally new anti-drug force from scratch. This is the price we have to pay for allowing the drug menace to reach this alarming level.

The illegal drug trade is one of the biggest industries in the country today, accounting for over P50 billion in annual street sales. This illegal activity covers the entire Philippine archipelago. Even in the remotest barrios, *shabu* can be readily purchased from pushers. High school and college students by the hundreds of thousands are hooked on *shabu*. In the entire Asia, the Philippines is one of the easiest places to buy illegal drugs. There are at present almost two million Filipinos dependent on *shabu*.

The P50-billion (and growing) annual trade in illegal drugs has corrupted not only police officers but also many officials who man the ramparts of our criminal justice system. With the low pay of our policemen and other public servants, drug lords have little difficulty co-opting public officials tasked to fight drug syndicates. The drug menace is not only destroying the future of our youth, but also turning into criminal organizations the very institutions that are supposed to protect citizens from organized crimes.

The drug menace now threatens our national security. Unless this menace is eliminated or at least drastically curbed, we may become another Colombia, a state fighting for survival on two fronts: a vicious war against drug lords and a debilitating war against Marxist insurgents. The corruption of our criminal justice system and the corrosion of the moral fiber of our youth will weaken our resolve to fight the communist insurgency and the Muslim secession. We cannot allow the drug menace to endanger our democratic institutions and the territorial integrity of our republic.

The drug menace comes from international drug syndicates that operate across national borders just like multinational corporations. The other day, Colombian President Andres Pastrana called for an international conference to assess global strategy against drug trafficking. Even as national governments join hands to fight the global drug menace, drug syndicates from different nations are also forming alliances to cement their hold on the global drug trade. The Russian mafia has recently struck deals with the Mexican and Colombian drug cartels.

We can no longer remain complacent in the face of the rapidly growing drug menace that is corroding the foundations of our society. It is time to fight head-on the drug menace with a new, unblemished force that will enjoy the full support of our people.

A life of service—and dance

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"I'M NOT as fit as I used to be," my Tio Badong complained to me about two years ago. "Before, I could go for two tangos back-to-back without breaking a sweat. Now, after only one tango, I have to sit down and rest."

I laughed in response. "Tio Badong, I can't even finish one tango!"

He was 86 at that time, and since the death of his wife, Luz, the weekly dances at the Senior Citizens' Center had been the highlight of his existence. That, and his volunteer work with St. Augustine's Parish in Daly City in California.

When we paid him a visit last June, Tio Badong was hurrying one morning because he had to rush to the parish to help count that Sunday's Mass collection, a responsibility entrusted to only a few trusted senior parishioners. Buddy himself is the current president of the parish council. Visiting Daly City for the wedding of my friend Maloy about four years ago, I was astonished to discover the nuptial Mass dominated by the Braganzas: Buddy was the lector, Ralph was an altar boy, Tio Badong was a lay minister, Tita Luz had helped prepare the chapel décor, and Kristina sang, under the careful ministrations of her mother Mila.

Service to church and community obviously played a central role in the family's life. But dancing was as much a passion for Tio Badong. When he passed away last Thursday at the age of 88, I would like to think that he did so with visions of himself and Tita Luz floating on the dance floor, dipping and twirling in a passionate tango.

* * *

TIO Badong was born the second child of Emilia and Gabriel Braganza of Alaminos, Pangasinan. Because my Tio Didoy, the eldest child, had a more retiring and bookish personality, it fell to Tio Badong to discipline his younger siblings. "If we were growing up today," remarked my Tio Ted, the youngest of the eight siblings, "Badong could very well be sued for child abuse."

But if he was a feared "enforcer" to his younger brothers, he was a most gentle *kuya* to his three sisters.

Which didn't mean he indulged their every whim. "I was very strict with the girls," he told me when I interviewed him last June for a planned book on the Braganzas. "When your Papa began courting your Mama, I didn't like him staying too long, so I would lay out a sleeping mat in front of them, forcing Erning to leave. Your Mama would get so mad at me, she would run crying to her room."

Tio Badong himself was something of a ladies' man, leaving a string of broken hearts from Pangasinan to Manila, where he went for college studies at the Ateneo and where he found work with the Bureau of Customs. But it was in Iloilo, where he was assigned shortly before the War, that he would lose his own head and heart to a *doktora* from Pampanga.

"We found ourselves in the same barrio when we had to flee the Japanese," Tio Badong recalled. As a young doctor who had come to serve the underprivileged, Luz Medina was much sought after, and had two serious suitors in an army officer and a guerrilla leader. But they were no match for the suave customs collector, who won over the *doktora* when he revealed a deep spiritual side beneath his easygoing personality. After Tita Luz told the guerrilla leader that she was marrying Tio Badong, the leader sought him out and threatened to disrupt the wedding. "So the whole time we were getting married, I had to keep looking around for the guerrillas." Nothing untoward happened, however, and Tio Badong and Tita Luz would remain married for more than 50 years.

* * *

TIO Badong and Tita Luz built their family home in Cubao, just a few blocks from our own home on Annapolis Street.

My sisters and I lived in that house for almost two years, after my parents moved to Pangasinan, and only now do I realize what a trial we must have been to Tita Luz, especially, what with our youthful involvement in activism. This was not the first time we "boarded" with them, however, since we would be entrusted to them whenever our parents had to be away on long trips. In that way we learned our first lessons in family solidarity and generosity.

Tio Badong and Tita Luz had three sons: Gabriel or Bing, an entrepreneur and business teacher; Salvador Jr. or Buddy, who is in insurance; and Armando or Butch, a psychiatrist based in New Jersey. Upon their retirement, Tio Badong and Tita Luz finally moved into Buddy's home in San Bruno, adjacent to Daly City. There they helped look after Ralph, who in his closeness to his grandparents "is really their son," jokes Buddy's wife Mila. They also built a new life for themselves, centered on the parish, the Senior Citizens' Center, and relatives and neighbors in the "Pinoy enclave" on the outskirts of San Francisco.

* * *

AFTER FALLING off his bed about two months ago, Tio Badong was rushed to the hospital where he was confined for five weeks. Suffering from a congestive heart, and weakened lungs and kidneys, he passed away Thursday in the presence of his entire family.

Salvador Ungson Braganza, "Papa Bong" to his extended family, was a loving father to sons Bing, Buddy and Butch; dearest father-in-law of the late Marilen, Mila and Rose; cherished grandfather of Yvette, Geraldine, Bingo, Giselle, Kristina, Ralph, Michael and Michelle and great grandfather of Bianca, Ashley and Sabine. He is also survived by his brothers Tom and Teddy.

Friends and relatives from Alaminos, the Bureau of Customs, the Knights of Columbus and the Ligaya ng Panginoon Community may extend their sympathies to the family through BUDBRAG@aol.com. Interment will be tomorrow, Monday, Sept. 10, following services at St. Augustine Church.

I shop, therefore I am

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IF Descartes were Singaporean, it would be enough for him to shop to confirm that he exists. There is probably no country in the world that has more shops per person than this Southeast Asian city-state, a reality that has prompted one prominent Indian architect to liken Singapore to "one gigantic shopping bag."

I stopped going to Singapore after the Flor Contemplacion affair. So I was quite unprepared for the awesome structures that have filled up this country's skyline in the last five or six years. This week my wife and I spent three days in this small island-nation, staying in a hotel just across a newly developed section of the city called Suntec City. Five interlinked towers, resembling the fingers of a hand, dominate this landscape. Adjacent to them is the low-lying but massive International Convention Center. All of them house offices and function rooms, but their lower floors are all shopping malls.

I realized there was hardly anything else a visitor could do in a place like this but eat and shop. Every attempt to stroll out of the hotel leads directly to a mall. Even the air-conditioned underground walkway to the metro rail is lined with shops. The malls are interconnected with one another. So, where one ends, another begins in what seems like an endless maze of corridors expressly made to trap the passerby into buying.

Strangely, the effect of this incredible concentration of shops in one place is a sensory saturation that inoculates one against purposeful buying. The upscale Suntec City malls are among the nicest shops I have seen anywhere, but going through them made me feel like I was being softened for a disadvantageous transaction. In self-defense, I held tightly to the little money I changed at the airport. If I had bought anything on impulse, it would have been for no better reason than because there was simply nothing else to do. Yes, it would have been just to confirm that I existed.

It is the same feeling you get when you patrol the shops of any major airport. It is an hour before boarding time. You've checked in early, hoping to find a quiet corner in which you can read. But now you are besieged by the thought that you have some unspent local currency in your wallet. It's not much, so converting it back to US dollars seems a hassle.

Moreover, you just hate losing in the exchange. You end up looking for things that are priced within the reach of your disposable money. I have bought many bottles of shaving lotion, watches, pens, battery-operated shavers and boxes of chocolate in this state of mindlessness. It's absolutely irrational, but you do it anyway.

The irrationality is even sharper in the light of Singapore's inflated prices. The strong Singapore dollar is a disincentive against buying almost anything, except maybe electronic goods. On a broad range of items, Singapore prices are nearly at par with those in Tokyo. They are definitely higher than those in Bangkok or Manila.

But if there is one important reason tourists would continue to come to this place, it is the food. We encountered it everywhere, and the prices are not a good indicator of quality. The best meal we had cost one-tenth of our first dinner at the hotel. But the most delicious food we found not in the hotels or restaurants for expatriates and tourists but in the old neighborhoods and markets of the locals. The merry blend of cultures in this multiracial society has produced some of the most unique and fabulous experiments in Asian cuisine.

"Hainanese chicken" is not a recipe from Hainan, China. It is completely a local invention, and Singaporeans call it "ginger chicken." The best is served in the noisy and steamy restaurants along Balestier Road. So is fish-head curry not from India. It originates explicitly from the kitchens of the Indian restaurants near the old Singapore racecourse. These recipes have not changed over the years.

What has changed is the whole self-definition of modern Singapore. It has positioned itself as a global society, a melting pot of various cultures, a secure haven for global firms. But culture is local, whereas modernity is universal. As it exiles its locals to the city's periphery, global Singapore is fast becoming a society without cultural anchor. It is a safe and comfortable place with all the amenities of a modern capital. But where is local Singapore? You could look out from your hotel room and not be able to tell if you are in Singapore or London.

Singapore has been extremely successful in engineering itself into a developed society. But the authoritarian developmental state has been unable to deploy its immense power to enrich its own cultural base. A society needs memory to achieve this, and memory resides in people. When the local is taken out in favor of the global, the result is often Disney-style "theme-parkism."

My friend, William Lim, the maverick Singaporean urban architect and planner, expresses a view that is clearly not popular in his country: "Official history tends to reflect what the rich and powerful have chosen to remember. In developing economies, memories of the poor and the marginalized can often be seen as counter-productive to the quest of attaining a Western-based modernity. Such is the case in Singapore during the '70s when the young nation was single-mindedly determined to become a global city."

In the last 30 years, Singapore has willed itself into becoming a society without a past and without a context. It is definitely a prosperous and orderly place—but its thinking citizens want it to be a little more than a shopping mall.

The next frontier?

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

AT SEA, Gulf of Alaska—After sailing through most of southeast Alaska, we are headed for Vancouver where this trip began a week ago. We are on international waters heading south. But first, a word on this cruise ship called "The Regal Princess."

Tourism is a mainstay of the Alaskan economy, though it is not completely dependent upon it as Hawaii is. Easily there are as many as 10 cruise ships to choose from if you are considering a tour of Alaska, many of them bearing the names of the countries in which they are registered, for instance, Holland America and Norwegian Sky. I chose Regal Princess only because the travel agent I contacted said the ships of the Princess company are newer and more spacious than the others. That could be part of the sales pitch. The Princess is registered in London. Each of these ships can accommodate an average of 1,500 travelers. They remind you somewhat of "Titanic," without the shipboard romance and hitting the fateful iceberg, of course.

So there must be that many people aboard this Princess ship, more than the population of many small towns and cities in North America. We just went to Skagway, for example, which has only 800 people. The ship is like a little city, complete with shops, bars, restaurants, swimming pool, jacuzzi, casino, dance halls, lecture halls, library, game rooms, theater, paintings for sale, and, of course, the decks, long decks lined with bodies sunning themselves or just savoring Alaska's stunning scenic beauty. The ship is 12 stories high, with an atrium in the middle which serves as the marketplace, the center of gravity. You can drink all you want and gamble all night long, if you have the money. And if you don't have the will or the discipline, you can go on eating all day as the buffet restaurant is open 24 hours. The other restaurant, for which you need to dress up for dinner, also has liberal hours but is closed at certain times.

And, just like any place in the world, you run into your *kababayan*, loads of them. Of the 360 employees on the ship, half are Filipinos—from chefs to head waiters to assistant waiters to bartenders to technicians to engineers. They are everywhere, from the kitchen to the bars. After the summer run in Alaskan waters, the ship goes off to Asia, to places like Shanghai and Osaka, and the Filipino contingent goes with it.

Most of them finished college, but like the rest of the overseas Filipino workers, they earn more outside the Philippines. It is politically incorrect to ask how much they earn, but it is obvious that a substantial part of their earnings comes from tips from grateful and appreciative customers. A head waiter can earn as much as $10 a day from each customer, and considering the great number of travelers, that can add up to a tidy bundle at the end of one cruise season.

In the future, traveling by ship like this may not be the only way to go from Alaska and back. We may be seeing the beginnings of the next frontier, which seems like a physical impossibility at the moment.

A proposal to build 900 miles of track linking Canada and Alaska is being discussed among US and Canadian political and business leaders. It is based on the Rails to Resources Act, signed into law in December 2000 by then President Clinton. The law authorizes spending up to $6 million to study the feasibility of building a northern rail link and calls for the establishment of a commission to study establishing a line from northern British Columbia in Canada to Fairbanks in Alaska. Joining the vast Yukon and the "lower 48" continental US is envisioned to do economic wonders for the two countries.

And what does this have to do with Russia? Are you ready for this one? The "second stage" in this ambitious engineering scenario for the future is to drill a tunnel below the Bering Strait north of this ship to link Alaska and Russia by rail! Alaska may be back to Russia after nearly 135 years, not as a colony again, but as a trading partner by undersea rail. Cool, isn't it? And it's grabbing some "prospectors" the way the gold fever did a hundred years ago.

Some newspapers in Canada have already published maps showing how such an improbable idea could actually materialize from British Columbia to Siberia. According to New York Times reporter James Brooke, Viktor Razbegin, director of the Center for Regional Transport Projects in Moscow, has endorsed the project in several interviews. Razbegin estimates that a Russia-North America rail link would cut trans-Pacific shipping times by as much as two weeks, and could carry 30 billion tons of cargo a year. The overall cost of this staggering construction, including the tunnel under the Bering Strait, would be about $50 billion. Brooke adds that on the Russian side, 2,000 miles of track would have to be laid from the Baikal-Amur Railroad to the Bering Strait. On the Alaskan frontier, about 750 miles of track will have to be laid between the Strait and Fairbanks.

Last February, Russia liberalized its "over-flight" policy, hoping to gain $300 million annually in fees from commercial jets flying over the transpolar routes between North America and Asia. In addition Russia is also promoting summer shortcut trips for ships plying the Barents Sea and Bering Strait.

Alaskan officials react more with caution rather than excitement to the idea despite its tremendous appeal. Some are downright skeptical. A spokesperson for Alaska Gov. Tony Knowles bases his caution on the fact that there is no "infrastructure" linking either side. This sort of skirts the question. The proposed project is intended precisely to build that infrastructure. Knowles himself, who had visited the trans-Siberian Pacific terminal in Vladivostok in the Russian Far East, has a practical consideration in mind: "That's a lot of track to lay between Vladivostok and British Columbia."

Supporters and advocates of the idea do not seem deterred. Brooke quotes entrepreneur Mike LaForet as saying that if the Panama Canal, the most ambitious and largest "earth-moving" project ever attempted succeeded, the rail idea between Russia and Alaska is a "snap." LaForet adds, "With the Soviet break-up, the Americans and the Russians are not enemies, they are customers." He sounds like a latter-day William Seward who was instrumental in the acquisition of Alaska from Russia for a mere $7.2 million in the 19th century.

The news is not yet catching fire as in the gold-rush days. Sounds like a pipe dream at the moment, but when the tunnel under the English Channel linking England and France was first proposed, it also sounded loony.

The only thing sure is that this ship and many of its 1,500 passengers scurrying about, including me, will not be around anymore at the dawn of the next frontier marking the first track to be laid under these waters from Alaska to Siberia.

THEY SAID

Priorities

"Having a business means responsibilities and difficulties. Before you even think of financial fulfillment, it's important to see yourself growing in it."
—Entrepreneur Christy Duque-Payne

To honor a priest

"It's unthinkable for Muslims to enter a Catholic church, but I think they forgot this just to see the priest they loved."
—Bishop Edwin dela Peña said at the funeral of slain priest Fr. Rufus Halley

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TALK OF THE TOWN

JOHN NERY, Editor

Join the discussion. E-mail us at talk@inquirer.com.ph

FITTINGLY, for the self-declared text capital of the world, the controversy over the proposed cutback in the allocation of free text messages has hogged the nation's headlines. The issue may be reduced to either of the following questions: Have the cellphone-waving innocents of Edsa 2 discovered greed in the executive suites? Or are the country's phone pioneers being held back by a bratty culture of entitlement? The cutback reflects not only a 21st-century lifestyle issue; it also mirrors the inevitable convergence of consumer advocacy and communications technology.

Text trolls

BY GERRY KAIMO
Webmaster, www.pldt.com

A FEW weeks ago, word started going around that the telecommunications companies were cutting free text allocations by two-thirds. Whoa, said some. In effect, telcos have clearly increased the prices of their short message service, or SMS. (Mental note: Must not forget to ask the beautiful G Toengi about her promise of "Free Text Forever.")

Maybe as a result of Edsa 2, some people thought their text messages, which had been influential enough to have been part of a President's downfall, would remain an affordable part of their lives. They were dead wrong. Remember, this is a country which for years had millions of citizens deprived of basic telephone communications by a selfish monopoly. Hence, one possible reason for the birth of the text generation. A generation which broke all age barriers and succeeded in bringing the telecoms industry about two billion pesos in revenue just from pre-paid text messages in the last year.

So the trolls come to ask for a higher fee to cross the Texting Bridge. A bridge used by students to send messages to their families in the provinces. A bridge used by anxious patients to reach their doctors. The SMS is one cool two-way message service actively used by all sectors of society from bandits to Presidents, from soldiers to foe.

And so when the trolls got a glimpse of the even greater profits to be made, they crept up on Juan de la Cruz, met with their government counterpart, got a go, and quietly announced an increase in the price of their SMS service, or text messages, by way of reducing their free allocation of messages. Of course, unlike their two-page advertisements strongly selling supplementary logos or ring tones aimed at texters, this piece of bad news was printed in small-circulation papers, but naturally spread through text like wildfire. The troll apparently forgot the tiny ants at his feet. Tiny indeed, compared to the awesome corporations that control the telcos. But not to be underestimated. Which, of course, is the first thing the trolls did. Forget about the ants, they thought, as they gazed at the pot of gold across the bridge.

Then the ants bit. And what a nightmare it has become for them. (This plot must have been hatched by the same corporate genius that sued the pldt.com website.) Because to defend their text reduction program came lame excuses. Both companies showed profits in the billions for the first six months of the year 2001, but were now threatening users with their inability to expand unless the texters cough up more pesos to continue to thumb their way through life in the Philippines. Apparently, the telco marketing departments indicated that the profile of a text user was akin to that of a Wall Street banker. Maybe that is why they came to the texter's door for billions of pesos in investments. But unlike the manner in which they treat their creditors, when at first met with resistance, they did not withdraw. Instead, they tried to push a ridiculous but equally expensive compromise by promising to stretch a text price increase into two installments. Rather arrogant, but not enough to convince them of what the public thought about their scheme.

Facing a court battle in which they were blocked by a temporary restraining order stopping their reduction plan, the legal representatives of the telcos have in court now trained their guns on the government agency in charge of telecommunications.

This brings us to the following questions:

1. Is not a telephone franchise a public utility? If so, is there not some responsibility to the public that comes with owning such a franchise? Why are some now pointing at irresponsible texting as an excuse?

2. If they didn't figure text would be used to fight their increase of text prices, then to them we ask a big "Duh?"

3. What is the actual price tag for a message that uses approximately two seconds to send/receive? E.g., if the voice costs almost 10 pesos a minute (60 seconds), shouldn't the price for text actually drop and not increase?

4. Why did they not approach banks for investments or loans and instead chose to hit on the already harassed Filipino consumer? The least they could have done was offer shares to those subscribers, as they claim it was for a business expansion project.

Hopefully, consumers will have become aware of the power they have to help themselves in fighting abuses by both big and small trolls. And may the business bullies in this country soon come to realize that as the Filipino consumer movement gains strength they may soon need to learn how to give proper service and maybe learn how to rightfully compete with each other and not against the Pinoy.

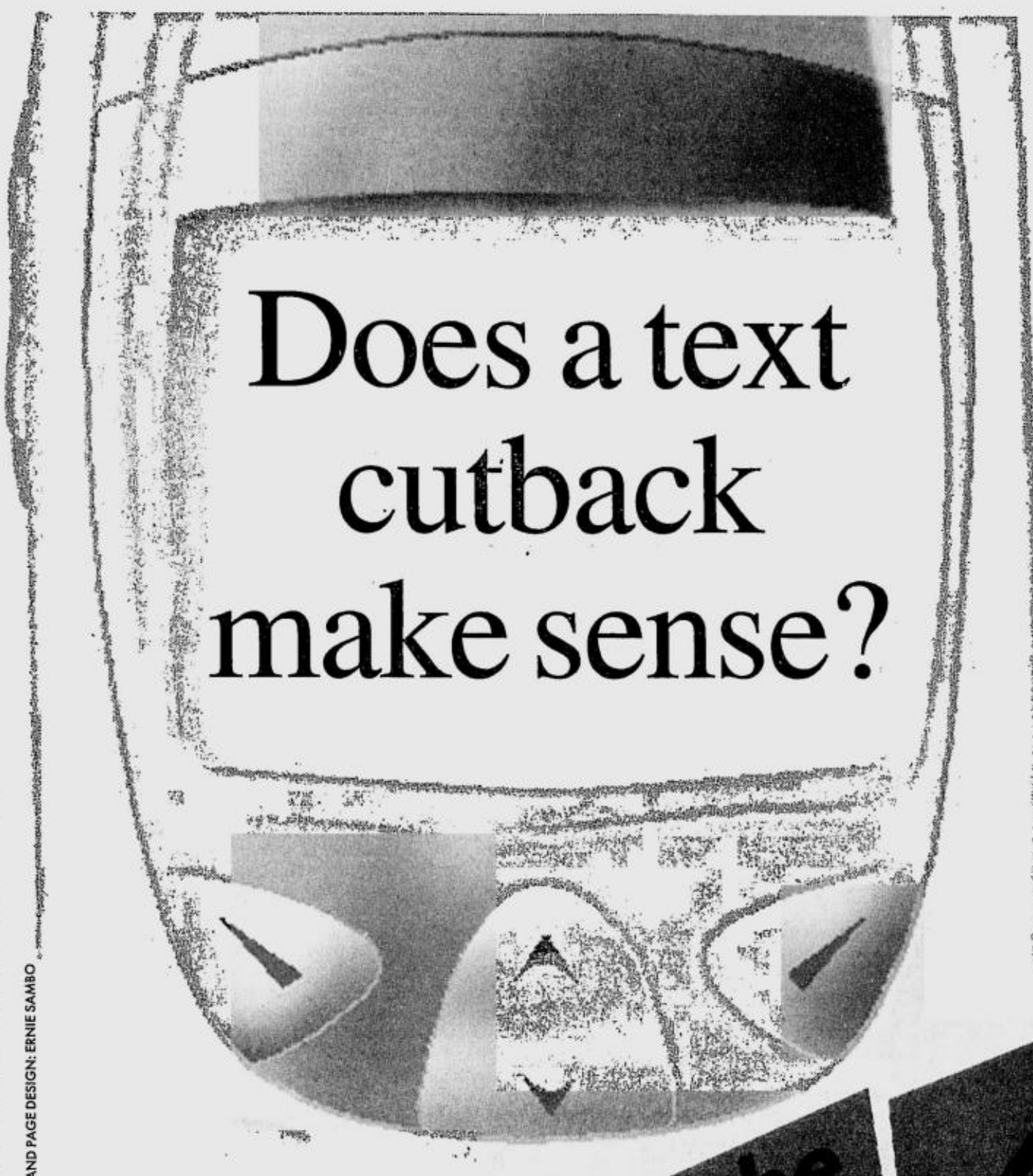

ILLUSTRATION AND PAGE DESIGN: ERNIE SAMBO

Striking the balance

BY RAMON R. ISBERTO
Public Affairs Head, Smart Communications

THE REDUCTION of free text allocations is best understood in the context of Smart's significant investments in the expansion of its GSM network. These investments are considerable. Last year, Smart spent more than P15 billion in network expansion—equal to the company's total revenues for that period. This year, we have programmed another P21 billion. ***For every peso that we make in terms of income, Smart is putting five pesos back into network expansion.***

The funds are being used to acquire network facilities such as mobile switching centers, radio base stations and radio transmission facilities—all of which have to be imported and paid for in increasingly expensive dollars.

Why the need to invest in network expansion? Let me cite just four reasons.

The first is our customers. People are now more sophisticated and their expectations higher. They take it as a matter of course that their cell phones will have a signal wherever they go. Operators have to work hard to get as close as possible to that ideal.

The second is competition. The operator who fails to continuously increase the coverage of his service will suffer a strategic disadvantage vis-a-vis competitors.

The third reason is technical—specifically, the need to maintain network quality. Prudence dictates that we maintain a comfortable buffer between the existing number of customers and total network capacity. Smart now has about five million cell phone users on its GSM network that currently has a capacity of over six million. Without this margin of safety, the quality of service would suffer.

The fourth reason is regulatory. Government authorities are imposing various requirements on cell phone operators to improve their service in urbanized areas and to extend their coverage to underserved areas in the provinces. Enhancing coverage in cities like Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao means increasing capacity and providing better indoor coverage in public and office buildings. Moreover, regulatory authorities are also pressing operators to install cell sites in "missionary area"—places where the volume of business will not suffice for cell phone companies to recover their investments. This is our social responsibility—our share in bridging the "digital divide" that now separates the well-served urban centers from the underserved rural regions.

For these reasons, expansion is not an option. It is a necessity for Smart. And this task has been made much more formidable by the adverse economic conditions that have affected the Philippines in the past four years.

The depreciation of the peso—from about P30 to $1 in November 1998 to P51 to $1 today—has greatly increased the financial burden arising from network expansion. Virtually every piece of equipment needed for building our network has to be purchased abroad and paid for in dollars.

To finance its investment program, Smart has tapped various sources. First, it has asked its shareholders—in this case, PLDT—to infuse additional capital. PLDT has done so, committing about $50 million in additional equity for this year. Second, Smart has obtained long-term loans. Recently, it signed a $195-million loan contract combined with a P1-billion loan facility. Third, the company has opted not to declare dividends and is plowing back all of its earnings into network expansion.

All of these moves are still not enough, however, to cover the much-increased cost of expansion. Additional measures have to be taken to generate the needed resources.

After extensive internal discussions during which various options were considered, it was found that reducing free text allocations was the simplest, least painful alternative. We have avoided other options that would have been more costly to our subscribers. It is worthwhile to stress that all of our rates—for voice and text services—remain unchanged since 1998. Moreover, at P1 per send, the Philippines still enjoys one of the lowest text-messaging rates in the world.

We thus appeal for the understanding and cooperation of the public. The simple truth is we need the public's help and support to build a network that will provide modern communications services not only to residents of relatively well-off urban areas but also to people in regions that have not yet benefited from cellular technology.

In this light, the reduction of free text allocation is a means for Smart to strike a balance between our commitment to provide our subscribers and the public with the best possible service at the most affordable cost, and our responsibility to further expand our network and raise the quality of our services.

Isberto declined to comment on the legal aspect of the issue, in deference, he said, to the temporary restraining order issued by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

Talking points

NOW is as good a time as any to sing the praises of text. Most of the resource persons who have contributed articles to this page, since it first saw print on May 27, received, and responded to, a short-messaging-service invitation. The major exceptions were the three former Presidents, but even then texting played an important part in laying the groundwork for the formal invitations that followed. The ease of this phone-based facility is matched only by the trust that is an implicit factor in its use. Numbers are shared, and messages are answered, largely because one cell phone user trusts another—to be on the level, to be (at a minimum) who we say we are.

Which brings us directly to the question at hand. Trust is what is precisely at issue in the proposed reduction of the number of "free" text allocations, and explains the public scorn and outrage that has met the proposal. Trust has been violated.

The sub-text of Mr. Kaimo's ironic take on the greed of the "text trolls" who have spotted the "pot of gold" on the other side of the "Texting Bridge" is a breach of trust. "Maybe as a result of Edsa 2, some people thought their text messages, which had been influential enough to have been part of a President's downfall, would remain an affordable part of their lives. They were dead wrong."

This sense of a breach is reinforced by the less-than-forthright way in which the cutback was announced: "unlike their two-page advertisements strongly selling supplementary logos or ring tones aimed at texters, this piece of bad news was printed in small-circulation papers."

But trust is a two-way street, and a close reading of Mr. Isberto's calibrated phrases shows that the telecommunications companies may have reason to complain too. A business is built on the assumption that its customers want it to provide them with the best possible product at the most reasonable price. In the context of mobile phones, "best" and "reasonable" include continuing technical investments.

"The simple truth is we need the public's help and support to build a network that will provide modern communications services not only to residents of relatively well-off urban areas but also to people in regions that have not yet benefited from cellular technology," Isberto writes.

But Kaimo's "ants" might scoff at this and cry, "Rationalization!" They've once taken the telcos at their word: "Free Text Forever." They would be loathe to do so again.—*J. Nery*

VIRTUES OF 3-DAY HOLIDAY WEEKENDS

Gordon paints rosy picture of stress-free summers

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

STRESS-FREE summers, anyone?

The Christmas holidays have yet to come in and the kids' break from school is more than half-a-year ahead but the Department of Tourism is already busy harping about the benefits of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon's proposed three-day weekends during the summer holidays.

Spurred by criticisms that the three-day weekend scheme would reduce the income of government workers who are paid by the day and that the scheme would promote laziness in the civil service, the DOT on Friday listed two other benefits of the plan—reduced stress and less traffic congestion.

"Rush-hour traffic can stretch the commute to as much as four hours a day, five to six days a week. The three-weekend season will reduce the commute by one to two days, and employees will be traveling during hours when the traffic is lightest," read the DOT statement.

The statement added: "Since the government workers would be putting in two more hours, they would go home when most of the other employees—those from the private sector—have already left public transport queues and other stops on the road."

Highlighting Gordon's idea of the three-day weekend scheme as a win-win situation for everybody involved, the DOT statement went on to say that the plan would not result in reduced wages for the casual government workers who are paid by the day.

"The government employees would be putting in more hours every day and that would compensate for not having to work on Fridays. They'd still be putting in 40 hours as mandated by the Civil Service Commission," said Gordon in an interview, confirming the DOT press release on the three-day weekend.

"And with people from government and the private sector not going to the public transportation stops, all waiting for their ride home at the same time, there'd be less stress on their part. And less traffic too. We can save on gas," added the tourism chief.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has approved the proposal in principle. She is set to sign it together with the order moving the observance of public nonworking holidays that fall on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to Fridays.

"Fourth and paramount, the proposed plan is to encourage and develop a preference for local tourism in our culture, which in turn would result in a gradual strengthening of related services and infrastructure on the local level," read the DOT statement.

"Employees can use the extra day to bond with their families while appreciating what our country has to offer in terms of leisure and cultural experiences, such as museums, churches, parks and beaches in their home provinces," it said.

Gordon took the opportunity to clarify that he was not pushing for any wage increases for government hands to compensate for the four-day workweek. He said the adjustment that he would be pushing for was the adjustment of daily work hours in summer.

"There is no need for salary increases even for casuals since they'd also be putting in the same number of hours a week," Gordon said.

Reacting to criticisms that four-day workweeks would encourage laziness in the public service, Gordon said: "We are not advocating a four-day workweek all year round. The proposed plan is for government offices to give its workers three-day weekends only during summers, acknowledging that a five- to six-day workweek is still the best way for government to perform its functions for the public."

"It is a common mistake to caricature government employees as being lax and slothful. There may be inefficient individuals in government offices, but it is unfair to presume that all government employees are undeserving of benefits," he added.

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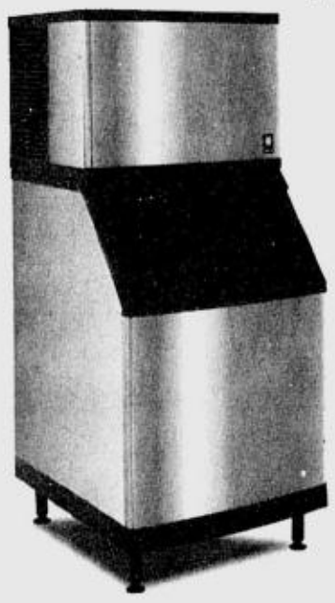

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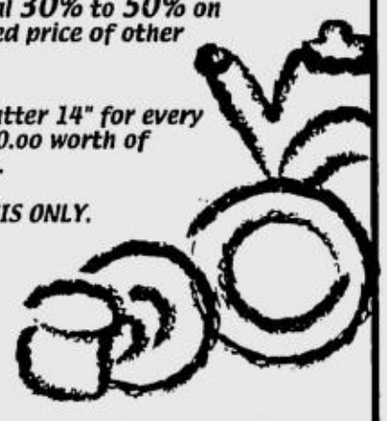

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

STARS OF ANDROMEDA REUTERS

A striking view of the southwest region of the Andromeda Galaxy is presented in this new color image taken with Subaru's prime focus camera "Suprime-Cam" released Sept. 7. Seen are the stars of the Andromeda Galaxy as a great many small white dots. Many of the stars, star clusters and nebulae in the image are seen clearly resolved for first time.

US jobless numbers soar

WASHINGTON-The nation's unemployment rate swelled to 4.9 percent in August as job losses in manufacturing passed 1 million for the yearlong national slowdown. The increase in the monthly jobless rate was the biggest in six years.

The report Friday virtually guaranteed further interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve to try to revive the economy, analysts said.

Businesses slashed 113,000 jobs from their payrolls last month, the Labor Department reported. The jobless rate rose by 0.4 percentage point from 4.5 percent in July, the level it had held since April.

"The slowdown is real and it's affecting too many lives and we're concerned about it," President George W. Bush said at the White House after meeting with anxious Republican leaders.

The jobless report sent stocks tumbling on Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down almost 235 points, coming within striking distance of its low for the year. The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed at its lowest level in nearly three years.

"'Ugly' is not a strong enough term to describe this report," said Joel Naroff, president and chief economist of Naroff Economic Advisors. "It was brutal."

The unemployment report tends to indicate where the economy has been rather than where it is going. The jobless rate often continues rising even after the economy starts to improve, reflecting the fact that businesses are afraid to hire back workers until they are certain the rebound is sustainable.

But economists were worried about the report's effect on consumers, whose spending has kept the economy afloat during the sluggish past year.

"When the economy needs consumers' support most, this bad news comes along," said Richard Yamarone, economic research director for Argus Research Co.

The Federal Reserve has reduced interest rates seven times this year to ward off recession. Analysts are expecting at least a quarter-point cut at the Fed's Oct. 2 meeting, if not a return to the half-point moves of earlier in the year.

The Bush administration is counting on the Fed's aggressive credit easing as well as federal tax rebate checks to help revive the economy. Republicans, with an eye toward next year's midterm elections, see trouble if conditions worsen.

"I want the American people to know we're deeply concerned about the unemployment rates, and we intend to do something about it," Bush said.

In August, manufacturing was once again hardest hit, shedding 141,000 jobs, the biggest one-month loss so far this year. Virtually every major manufacturing industry lost jobs. Since July 2000, manufacturing employment has plummeted by more than 1 million. But gains in the service sector helped offset those losses.

The overall decline of 113,000 jobs in August followed a revised 13,000 increase in July. The 4.9 percent unemployment rate was the highest since September 1997 and marked a pronounced decay from the three-decade low of 3.9 percent posted in several months last year. *AP*

63 countries tried to get sensitive US technology

WASHINGTON—US defense contractors reported that 63 countries improperly tried to obtain sensitive technology from them in 2000, according to a new military counterintelligence report.

They sought all manner of military technology, focusing on computer hardware and software, night-vision sensors, aircraft parts and missiles, the report says. Foreign governments, businesses and individuals tried attending industry trade shows, taking company tours and hacking corporate computers to get at the protected tech.

"Access to these technologies by potential adversaries could enhance the performance of foreign military systems and could be used to counter US capabilities," the report says.

Most often, the foreign interests simply asked for the sensitive information, usually via e-mail.

"The Internet provides a simple, low-cost, nonthreatening, risk-free means of worldwide access to US defense technology," the report says. "E-mail and Web-chat exchanges are inconspicuous and can bypass many traditional security safeguards, directly reaching the targeted individual."

Requests came from foreign companies, state-run universities and people identifying themselves as students.

Some examples of suspicious activity in the report seem fairly innocuous, such as a foreign pilot asking about the differences between US F-15 fighters and the model exported to his country.

Others are more ominous; in one case, a defense contractor traveling in a foreign country returned to his hotel room to find his laptop broken into.

Suspicious incidents are supposed to be reported to the Defense Security Service, which tabulates the data into its annual report, "Technology Collection Trends in the US Defense Industry." *AP*

Slavery accord reached at UN race conference

DURBAN, South Africa—African and European negotiators at a global racism conference have reached agreement in principle on the legacy of slavery and colonialism, a European diplomat said on Saturday.

The accord had not yet been "validated," the diplomat said, adding that a final agreement would depend on reaching a similar consensus on the Middle East, the other key issue at the talks.

"We will not be able to accept the accord on the past if there is no accord on the Middle East," the diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The UN World Conference Against Racism had been scheduled to end on Friday but failure to resolve differences over slavery and Middle East kept negotiators talking through the night.

Negotiators for the European Union member states stayed in Durban, South Africa, after the United States and Israel pulled out Monday over what they deemed "hateful" anti-Israeli language.

Since then, South Africa, which is chairing the conference, has put forward new draft texts on both thorny issues.

The text on the issues of the "past" covers colonialism, reparations, the question of an apology and the recognition of slavery and the slave trade as a crime against humanity, adding they "should always have been so."

It also includes recognition of the "need to develop programs" to help developing countries and the diaspora and says that: ``some states have taken the initiative to apologize."

The Europeans had resisted calls by African countries for nations that profited from the slave trade and colonialism to apologize, amid concerns that an explicit apology could pave the way for court claims for monetary compensation.

The draft text on the Middle East includes recognition of the "inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent state." *AFP*

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Ex-US POWs forced to labor by Japan demand reparations

SAN FRANCISCO—Fifty years after Japan and the United States signed a peace treaty in San Francisco, demands for apologies and reparations for Japan's wartime offenses have clouded the anniversary celebrations here this weekend.

"The only way this treaty's going to be valid is when they recognize what they did," said Frank Bigelow, 80, a former US Navy seaman who was among thousands of American POWs forced to labor for Japanese companies during World War II.

The 50th anniversary celebrations of the San Francisco Peace Treaty will culminate here on Saturday, when Secretary of State Colin Powell and Japanese Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka honor cooperation between the two allies.

The Japanese newspaper Asahi reported Friday that during the ceremony, Tanaka will apologize for the suffering of American prisoners of war. There was no immediate confirmation from the Japanese government.

The war in the Pacific ended in 1945, but it wasn't until Sept. 8, 1951, that Japan signed a peace treaty. The treaty and accompanying documents gave Japan political independence and cemented a defense alliance that is still an important part of US foreign policy.

American cold warriors offered lenient terms because they wanted a bulwark against communism in East Asia. Japan did not have to repair countries it attacked, compensate victims of wartime atrocities, or apologize for its acts.

"All these issues were totally swept under by the 1951 treaty," said L. Ling-chi Wang, a professor of Asian American Studies at the University of California at Berkeley. "In the case of Japan, not of Germany, we were willing to bury everything."

While diplomats, academics and business leaders are meeting to hail the US-Japan relationship over the past 50 years, Wang plans to hold a parallel conference here titled "50 Years of Denial."

Among other things, it will look at the Japanese military's use of thousands of women, many from Korea, as sex slaves and the massacre of up to 300,000 Chinese in the Rape of Nanking.

Between 1946 and 1948, the International Military Tribunal for the Far East tried 28 Japanese military and political leaders for conspiring to commit aggression and other war crimes; seven were executed and 16 were given life sentences. In addition, about 6,000 lower-ranking Japanese were tried by the Allies for alleged atrocities in battle or against prisoners of war. Some 920 were sentenced to death and executed.

Though Bigelow was in town for the 50th anniversary, he did not see much to celebrate. Bigelow is part of Justice for Veterans, a group of Americans seeking an apology and reparations from Japanese companies that forced them to maintain Japan's industry.

Bigelow worked at a mine operated by Mitsui Corp. outside Nagasaki—a post that gave him a clear view of the atomic mushroom cloud that foreshadowed his release.

The 1.9-meter Bigelow was down to just 43 kg when he broke his leg in 1944 while laboring in the mines. An American doctor amputated it with a hacksaw and packed the tourniquet with maggots to eat away gangrenous flesh. *AP*

MISS UNIVERSE ON THE RAMP
Miss Universe Denise Quinones from Puerto Rico displays for Spanish designer Montesinos Alama's Spring/ Summer 2002 collection during Madrid fashion week Sept. 7.

REUTERS

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WORLDBRIEFS

200 refugees intercepted

SYDNEY—The Australian Navy intercepted and boarded an Indonesian boat bound for Australia, carrying around 200 suspected illegal immigrants, Prime Minister John Howard said Saturday. The migrants were taken off the ship Friday night and put on the HMAS Manoora, which is heading for Papua New Guinea, carrying 433 refugees turned away recently by Howard after they were rescued from a sinking Indonesian ferry by the crew of the Norwegian cargo ship MV Tampa. *AP*

Megawati jeered in Aceh

MEGAWATI

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia—Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri was booed and jeered Saturday as she made her first visit to the war-torn province of Aceh under heavy security. Some 3,000 troops were deployed around Banda Aceh to protect the president, her husband and an entourage that included 12 government ministers and the country's police and military chiefs. More than 1,500 people have died in the province this year in clashes between security forces and separatist rebels of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM). Megawati is hoping to persuade the province's population to accept an offer of enhanced autonomy rather than seeking independence, an option she has ruled out. Saturday's visit was her first since she took office seven weeks ago. *AFP*

Global terror warning

WASHINGTON—The United States renewed a global warning to Americans Friday, after a Middle East-related threat of attacks against US military installations, troops and businesses they patronize in Japan and South Korea. The State Department issued the worldwide warning after it and the US embassies in Tokyo and Seoul said they had received credible information about threats in the two Asian countries. An existing "worldwide caution" warning US citizens abroad of possible attacks from extremist groups would be updated to make specific reference to Asia as potential area for such action, he said. *AFP*

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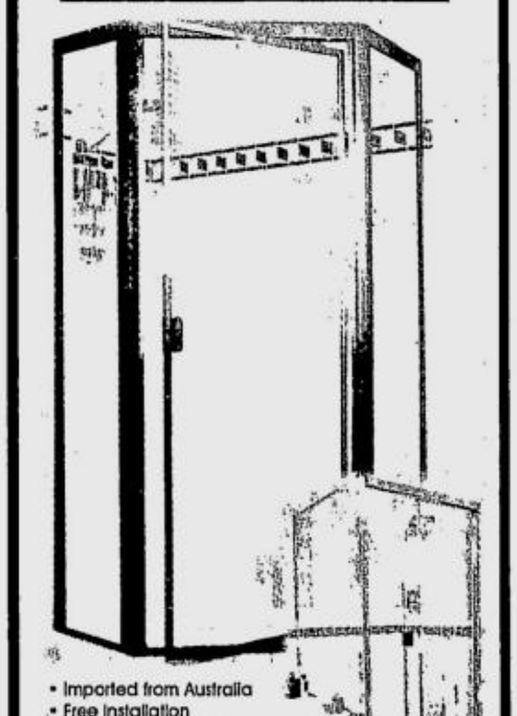

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AFP-MILF clashes rage in Lanao, Maguindanao

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Fighting between the military and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front continues to rage in the two Lanao provinces and in Maguindanao, further endangering the ongoing peace negotiations.

As the hostilities entered its third day yesterday, Brig. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based here, said that unless the MILF retreats, the military will continue its offensive in Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte.

The MILF said members of its 206th Brigade clashed with soldiers of the Army's 37th Infantry Battalion in Barangays Tatapan and Pikeg in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, early yesterday.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the fighting also spread to nearby Mamasapano town, also in Maguindanao, where rebels under Commander Abdulwahid Halil killed the brother of the town mayor, Tato Ampatuan.

"We did not get his name but he was leading some Cafgus (Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit) against our members when the encounter occurred," Kabalu said.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach 6th ID spokesperson Maj. Julieto Ando, who is based in Maguindanao.

Trigger

Brig. General Alfonso Dagudag, commander of the 4th ID, said the Lanao encounters started when a band of rebels under Commander Bravo of the MILF's 303rd Brigade fired at a team from the 26th IB in Barangay Tamparan in Munai, Lanao del Norte, on Thursday.

The soldiers, Dagudag said, were on their way to rebuild civilians' houses that were destroyed during the all-out war declared by ousted President Joseph Estrada last year.

Dagudag said subsequent military operations against the MILF in Munai resulted in the killing of several MILF guerrillas and one soldier, and the wounding of at least three enlisted personnel.

"My men on the ground are currently assessing the situation and are exerting efforts to drive out the MILF rebels from where they are not supposed to be. If the MILF rebels do not get out, we have no recourse but to engage them," Dagudag said.

As of yesterday, the fighting spread to adjacent towns as more rebels came to join their beleaguered comrades.

The military also sent more troops and launched air attacks, according to Dagudag.

Kabalu said the hostilities were now affecting Kauswagan and Poona-Piagapo towns, which are adjacent to Munai.

He said assaulting soldiers were coming from Pantar-Ragat, Baloi in Lanao del Norte and Madalum in Lanao del Sur, triggering more clashes.

Casualties

Kabalu claimed that since Sept. 6, the MILF has already killed at least nine soldiers and two militiamen and wounded six others.

But Dagudag said he did not know where Kabalu got the figures as he maintained that only one soldier was killed.

Maj. Johnny Macanas, spokesperson of the 4th ID based in Cagayan de Oro City, said at least 30 MILF rebels were killed since the hostilities started on Thursday.

Kabalu said the encounters were endangering the peace process and added that the MILF would be filing more charges against the military for violating the ceasefire agreement signed in Kuala Lumpur on Aug. 7.

"The military's violation is already too much. We already lost track of how many these violations are," Kabalu said.

Dagudag said the military would also be filing charges of violations against the MILF.

He said the Lanao encounters were initiated by the rebels, in violation of the provisions of the Kuala Lumpur accord which considered "hostile" acts "aggressive actions, such as attacks, raids, ambuscades, land mining, and offensive military actions such as shelling, reconnoitering, and unjustified massing of troops."

Kabalu said the MILF would welcome the filing of the protest "if only to prove that the military is not doing its assignment."

He said it was the military, which initiated the hostilities by attacking an MILF training camp under Commander Bravo.

"And the Kuala Lumpur agreement did not say that training of new recruits is a violation," Kabalu said.

Evacuations

Kabalu admitted that the real casualties in the encounters were the civilians. "This is not a matter of how many enemies are killed," he said.

He said this was why the MILF agreed to negotiate with the government "because they (civilians) have suffered long enough."

Hundreds of residents in the affected areas, still reeling from the series of hostilities last year, have fled to safe grounds.

Social welfare officials said they were still determining the number of evacuees and their immediate needs. ***Butch D. Enerio, Grace C. Albasin and Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Drug probers target 'wagwag'

BAGUIO CITY—Police are looking into the possibility that *wagwag* (rummage) boxes usually containing used clothes, bags and shoes may also contain illegal drugs.

Chief Supt. Virtus Gil, Cordillera police director, said illegal drug couriers based in Hong Kong had tried hiding shabu and marijuana inside container vans of second-hand goods.

Wagwag being sold here are usually brought in *balikbayan* boxes from Hong Kong by Baguio businessmen.

The businessmen, known as *biyaheros*, select and package the used goods in Hong Kong. The booming *wagwag* business usually nets P1.5-P2 million daily.

The used clothes brought through cargo ships were usually intended for Mindanao and the Visayas.

EENIE, MEENIE . . . : This woman could not decide what dress to buy during the "Wagwag" Festival in Baguio City last Friday. EVESPIRITU

Gil acknowledged that the police have not yet established any evidence linking the *wagwag* trade to illegal narcotics, although he said the industry's easy access to Hong Kong could be the key to an official probe.

"These are leads which (the regional police) are looking at very closely, because Baguio's role as a transshipment point for marijuana (grown in interior towns of Ifugao, Kalinga and Mt. Province) had already diminished. It is also a poor market for shabu, so we do not want it to become a new transshipment point for Hong Kong drugs," he said.

Gil said shabu confiscation in Baguio amounted to only 343 grams this year. Compared to shabu, marijuana confiscation this year has reached P151 million, he said.

"If you ask me, the *wagwag* (industry) is the biggest mistake the government had allowed into our midst. It is very possible these (*wagwag* shipments) can be penetrated by (organized drug traffickers). And the industry is very destructive, it affects the economy," Gil said in Filipino.

Gil said he first encountered reports that drug shipments used secondhand or bargain clothes retailers, during his stint as chief of the Western Police District in 1998.

He said shipment registries all traced the garments' sources back to China and Hong Kong, based on documents collected by the National Drug Enforcement and Prevention Center.

Wagwag retailers welcomed the police investigation because they said it would protect them from organized crime.

Esther Bayao, a *wagwag* retailer, said bargain houses had been targeted lately by local criminals.

"A Pakistani, who was shipping *wagwag*, was already robbed here in Baguio, but I did not hear any references to drugs," she said.

"But for genuine retailers, it is not possible. I do my own packing from Hong Kong so I know. In fact, these *wagwag* boxes are now being regulated upon entry."

The city opened a "*wagwag* festival" on Friday, where the rummage industry's finest garments had been put up for sale. The festival runs until Sunday. ***Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon as well as Southern Tagalog Region will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the Eastern and extreme Northern Luzon. The rest of the country will be cloudy at times with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy with rains	Hi 23° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Laoag	Cloudy with rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with rains	Hi 29° Lo 21°
Legazpi	At times cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Calapan	At times cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 23°
Bacolod	At times cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Roxas	At times cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 26°
Cebu	At times cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Tacloban	At times cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	At times cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	At times cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	At times cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Davao	At times cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/09/8/01

ROUNDUP

Mission for tree docs

BAGUIO CITY—Tree doctors from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños treated two pine trees infected by a disease called "ips" inside Camp John Hay here last month. Officials of the Camp John Hay Development Corp. said the doctors scrapped off the infected portions, covered these with mesh wire and put cement. Local experts regularly monitor the forest stand in the camp and the air and water conditions in the surrounding places in line with the city government's comprehensive environmental program. ***Katrine Sales and Allan Macatuno, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Decongesting Baguio

BAGUIO CITY—The city council plans to direct the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board to stop issuing franchises to taxi operators in a bid to ease traffic congestion here. Councilor Delfin Balajadia, chair of the council's committee on transportation and communication, said vehicles plying the city routes had doubled, causing traffic in the main thoroughfares. Records from the Department of Transportation and Communications showed that 13,200 vehicles were registered during the first six months compared with 11,937 during the same period last year. ***Jovelyn Reyes and Sandra Go, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Robbers kill trader

LEGAZPI CITY—For refusing to give his money to robbers, a cattle trader was shot dead along the Maharlika Highway in Bula, Camarines Sur, on Friday. Police said the victim, Alfredo Pesa, was driving his motorcycle toward Bula when two unidentified armed men flagged him down and demanded money. Pesa was shot in different parts of the body and died on the spot, police said.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Guard nabbed for shabu

LEGAZPI CITY—Police on Friday arrested a jail guard for alleged shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) trafficking during a buy-bust operation in Barangay Calauan, Naga City. Joseph Mendones, guard of the Camarines Sur provincial jail, was allegedly involved in past robberies and drug trafficking, said Supt. Eleazar Bron, Naga police chief. Police recovered three sachets of shabu, a marked P500 bill and a fan knife from Mendones. The suspect was shot and hit in the right leg as he tried to escape from his captors.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Lawmen accused of murder

BAGANGA, Davao Oriental—Murder charges were filed against members of the police provincial mobile group and the Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Unit here in connection with the death of two suspected rebel supporters on Aug. 6. The parents of Melvin Cartin, 19, and Joseph Francisco, 17, both of Barangay Kinablangan, claimed the police officers and militiamen took the victims from their houses. The next day, they said, the bodies of Cartin and Francisco were found with bullet wounds. In a report to the PNP regional command in Davao City, Supt. Melchisedeck Bargio, police provincial director, identified the killers as members of a New People's Army "Sparrow" unit.

Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Councilor dismissed

LUPON, Davao Oriental—The Office of the Ombudsman-Mindanao ordered the dismissal from government service of a municipal councilor for dishonesty. The decision was based on charges filed by former mayor Arfran Quiñonez, who accused the councilor, Efren Suzon, of making cash advances amounting to P11,150, purportedly to cover expenses for an official travel to Baguio City that he never took. Suzon claimed he had already returned the money, but the anti-graft body said a crime had been committed. Suzon's benefits were also ordered forfeited.

Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

New projects readied

DAVAO CITY—Some P49 million worth of new projects are being readied for implementation in areas of conflict in Mindanao, particularly within the Special Zone for Peace and Development. Jose Nole Olano, executive director of the Philippine Development Assistance Program (PDAP), said the projects were included in the second phase of an initiative to develop the areas and contribute to the peace process. "(This) will (also) support already successful projects for the Moro National Liberation Front that were started in 1997," he said. The PDAP's partners in the implementation of the projects are the Canadian International Development Agency and the Balay Mindanaw Foundation.

Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

It's Mt. Balatucan

THE NEWS item that appeared in yesterday's "Roundup" column referred to Mt. Balatucan in Misamis Oriental and its "normal state." The volcano was inadvertently named "Mt. Binatukay." We apologize for the error.

UNDERSECRETARY Jesus Dureza inspects the anti-aircraft machinegun and other high-powered firearms surrendered by former rebels at Camp Maria Cristina in Iligan City. BUTCH ENERIO

60 MILF, NPA rebels surrender to military

ILIGAN CITY—Tired of fighting the government, 60 former rebels surrendered to the military last weekend here and in Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur.

Thirty-nine of those who gave up were members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and 21 belonged to the communist New People's Army, including a family of "*alimaongs*" or tribal warriors.

The MILF surrenderers belonged to the 7th Battalion of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces operating in Munai, Lanao del Norte, and in Madalum, Lanao del Sur.

The former NPA rebels were members of the strike force of Front 17 Kalikupan operating in the hinterlands of Kulambugan and Maigo in Lanao del Norte.

The surrenderers were presented to Undersecretary Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for regional concerns in Southern Mindanao, and Brig. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, 4th Infantry Division chief, in a formal ceremony at Camp Maria Christina here.

In Camp Awa, headquarters of the 402nd Army Brigade, in Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur, a man and his sons, all tribal warriors, surrendered to the military. They had been involved in the rebel movement for almost four years, under the NPA's Northern Mindanao Regional Committee.

They were accused of killing two NPA members who visited their community.

The surrenderers turned over 46 high-powered firearms, including a 50-cal. anti-aircraft machinegun. ***Butch D. Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Fire hits Quezon town

TAYABAS, Quezon—At least 25 families were rendered homeless when a fire of still unknown origin burned rows of apartment-type houses at Barangay San Diego Zones I and II here on Friday.

Chief Insp. Renato Alba, Tayabas police chief, estimated the fire damage at P20 million.

Alba said the fire started in the house of a certain Cita Sabornido, near a *budin* (cassava cake) factory, at 10:35 a.m. It spread to nearby houses, mostly made of wood.

Police reported no casualty during the one-hour blaze.

"The rows of 15-sq.-m. house units belong to a single clan," PO1 Roel Balilo of the Tayabas fire station told the INQUIRER.

Bolilo said the fire also razed the stockroom of a local hardware store. An Indian national, identified only as a certain Singh, who lives in a nearby apartment, was also one of the fire victims, he said.

Police were still investigating the cause of the fire.

Firefighters from the nearby towns of Lucban and Pagbilao, and Lucena City, and the La Tondeña Fire Brigade responded to the alarm and helped put out the fire. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

New ARMM poll schedule sought

BY EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Eight Muslim lawmakers have filed a bill seeking to postpone the Nov. 26 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

House Bill 2873 aims to amend Republic Act No. 9140, which sets elections in the ARMM on every last Monday of November and every three years thereafter.

The lawmakers wanted the Nov. 26 polls moved to May 2003 and every three years thereafter.

They included Hussin Amin and Munir Arbison of Sulu, Soraya Jaafar of Tawi-Tawi, Benasing Macarambon and Faysa Dumarpa of Lanao del Sur, Guimid Matalam of Maguindanao, Abdula Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte, and Gerry Salapuddin of Basilan.

They claimed that the Aug. 14 plebiscite, which amended RA No. 6734 and ratified RA No. 9054, was a "dismal failure" due to the low turnout of voters.

In a statement issued by the ARMM, the lawmakers also claimed that holding the elections in November was a direct and clear violation of RA 9054, which states that the term of office of ARMM elected officials begins on Sept. 30.

The Muslim lawmakers said the peace and order situation of Mindanao might result in another dismal failure.

ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari will not be seeking another term if the election is held in November or in 2003, according to Regional Legislative Assembly Speaker Alvares Isnaji.

Isnaji, who represents Tawi-Tawi, is now acting ARMM governor. Misuari is in Thailand.

Vice Gov. Guimid Matalam resigned when he ran for Congress in Maguindanao.

"Postponing the Nov. 26 polls to a later date will surely redound to the interest of the GRP and the ARMM constituents," the proponents said.

Iligan City 'moves' to Northern Mindanao

ILIGAN CITY—Residents are jubilant over the impending transfer of their city from Central Mindanao (Region 12) to Northern Mindanao (Region 10).

The transfer comes after the majority of residents rejected the inclusion of Iligan in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in the Aug. 14 plebiscite.

Mayor Franklin Quijano said President Macapagal-Arroyo informed him about the "good news" by telephone on Wednesday night. With her executive powers, the President can re-arrange the geographical composition of the regions, Quijano explained.

In the past, Iliganons were confused about the situation because branches of the local government were under different regions.

The city's fire and police departments were under Region 9 (Western Mindanao), whose seat of government is in Zamboanga City. The budget and finance office, labor and employment, public works and the education and culture fell under Region 12 with its main offices in Cotabato City.

But residents have to transact business with the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System in Cagayan de Oro City, seat of Region 10, in filing their claims and loan applications.

Quijano said the city's transfer from Region 12 to Region 10 was "a practical one" because it would mean government savings, as well as reduced travel time.

Glen Longakit of the city mayor's office said government employees would no longer need to travel for three days to Cotabato City via Pagadian City. Cagayan de Oro is only an hour and a half away by car from Iligan. ***Christine Godinez-Ortega, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ NICO A. ALCONABA, Bureau Chief

Goodbye, Jonma

BY ALEXANDER M. YOUNG
Zamboanga City

HE would never strike you as a feverish drunken poet. Neither was he the expressive one who would shed a tear for a vanishing sunset.

Jonathan Ma was so square he sometimes appeared to live a quadrilateral existence.

In fact, it was difficult for me to imagine that our soft-spoken Jonathan, who seemed the least interested in girls, would be so enamoured with the text mate he would chase all the way to Manila.

The lover boy even quit his job as reporter for IBC TV last year to be with the woman, his first and only "girlfriend."

Of course, Jonathan, 25, remained single until his dying day. A victim either of unsolicited love or false pretenses, his body was found lifeless around 2:45 a.m. on Thursday by a bellboy inside Room 223 of the Orange Apartelle in Sucat, Parañaque City.

Hotel staff members said Jonathan left his room the night before, saying he would "go out to fetch his wife." Curiously, he returned after buying an assortment of drugs, without his "wife."

Hours later, when the bellboy knocked on Ma's room to ask if the reporter would apply for an extension, there was no response. Hotel personnel, bothered by the silence inside his room, barged in and found his body hanging stiff, suspended by shoe laces tied around the neck.

Dr. Velentine Bernales, a medico-legal officer in Parañaque, told the INQUIRER that several marks of strangulation were found around Jonathan's neck. They also recovered plastic peelings of several paracetamol tablets and painkillers, apparently consumed by Ma, inside the room where he was supposed to meet his loved one, said to be his text mate from Pampanga.

Suicide note

Police authorities also discovered a suicide note and tape recording left by Jonathan declaring his frustration over a failed romance.

Part of the recorded message addressed to the woman said: "*Walang kwentang mabuhay kung wala ka* (Life is meaningless without you). Just to prove to you na *mahal na mahal kita* (I love you very much)."

When Parañaque authorities interviewed the woman regarding their "relationship," she denied ever knowing Jonathan. She even told authorities that she already has a husband and a child and that Jonathan was nothing more than a casual text mate.

"When we interviewed (the woman), she answered, 'Text mate *ko lang siya*, nothing more,'" the police investigator said.

But staff members of the Orange Apartelle said Ma had been a regular customer who checked in usually accompanied by a woman with a child.

The woman, said to have a round face, matches Ma's description of his loved one to colleagues in Zamboanga.

Jonathan (some colleagues prefer to call him "Ma") started a career in media as a rookie reporter for dxXX of The Radio Philippines Network in Zamboanga. He had a stint as a reporter for IBC TV 11, while doing work as correspondent for the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Last year, he resigned from IBC to take on a full-time job as INQUIRER correspondent and for a community newspaper based in Zamboanga.

Well-loved

Ma took up Mass Communications at the Western Mindanao State University, and was well-loved by his family, friends and colleagues.

Zamboanga-based reporters remember him as a very quiet and serious fellow, but always had a cheery grin that contrasted his seeming tightlipped character.

He was kind to colleagues, sharing facts and story ideas without thinking of "out-scooping" the rest. And unlike some corrupt colleagues who easily sell out to political partisanship, Jonathan insisted on maintaining his independence and objectivity.

In fact, his ethical stance was said to have caused him one of his earlier jobs.

Jonathan was always precise. His bag contained a complete set of journalist's paraphernalia. I don't know how many times he had yielded his pen to me, but it seemed he always had another in reserve.

Jonathan's notoriety for tardiness in coverage was also well-known. He always made me feel good about myself when we attended press conferences, knowing that there was someone more slack than me.

Late bloomer

Everyone, of course, knew why he was the late bloomer—he could spend hours and hours dressing himself up. He always wore two layers of shirt, tucked in his khaki slacks, no matter how warm the weather was. And it seemed he always wore his Sunday best, even if we were just going out for a picnic.

Jonathan's favorite outfit was a white shirt that bore the INQUIRER masthead. I could remember how that shirt became his uniform of sorts, even if he was going on-cam for IBC. And, of course, he never failed to wear it with an undershirt.

JONATHAN Ma: No-nonsense journalism and a tragic love story.

Jonathan's chinky eyes complemented his lean built and height. And, boy, you should have smelled him when he passed by. It seemed the guy was always so "ready" for "chicks *tirada*" that I sometimes suspected he was always packed with a canister of cologne.

I guess the best way to describe Jonathan was that in work, in personality and in life, he was always neat and clean.

Friends and colleagues had always noted his obsession for his first love.

"But it seems our advice to him fell on deaf ears," a soldier-friend remarked upon learning of Jonathan's demise.

This was his second attempt to take his own life.

Jonathan himself said that in his first suicide try, he was saved by his "girlfriend."

He also tried to kill himself in the comfort room of another hotel in Manila where the couple checked in.

Of course, the very young and promising Jonathan Ma will be such a great loss to the journalistic profession in Zamboanga. His caliber and experience, despite his youth, could have encouraged aspiring journalists.

Many lessons can be learned from Jonathan's death. But above all, Jonathan's tale, like any other, is a story about love. And like in any love story, tragic or otherwise, the greatest thing we can ever learn, is just to love and be loved in return.

Armed (with a camera) and dangerous to foes

BY JOEY R.B. LOZANO
Bukidnon

FED up with what they call "deceptive and manipulative acts that are inimical to the *lumads*' interests," 12 members of the Manobo, Talaandig, Higaonon and Kirenteken tribes "attacked" the service center of the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) in Bukidnon on Aug. 27.

But the tribes were not armed with bows and arrows, or with pistols and rifles. They came with six video and still cameras to confront the office staff. They managed to corner Prudencio Tagay, a liaison officer.

The *lumads* are members of the Nagkahiusang Kahugpungan sa mga Manobo ug Talaandig (Nakamata), a coalition of 10 indigenous peoples organizations in south-central Bukidnon. Only recently, they received a digital video camera from Witness, a New York-based organization that equips activists and organizations with cameras for human rights advocacy work.

The Nakamata members were accompanied by a video crew from Canada which documented the use of the camera by indigenous peoples in advancing their rights.

As cameras rolled, Nakamata chair Datu Winefredo Sumael accused Tagay of causing the signing of a document that allowed a certain Datu Daguiwaas to represent the Nagkahiusang Tingog sa mga Manobong Mag-uuma sa Mulita (Nagtimmma).

Nagtimmma, which is based in the adjacent town of Don Carlos, is laying claim over nearly 2,000 hectares of land, a huge part of which has been used by Marcos crony Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco as site for a coconut plantation.

Tagay and other local officials allegedly favored the Nagtimmma, purportedly in exchange for a share of the land once it was awarded to the group.

Datu Arnulfo Makapukaw Sali-ot also alleged that Tagay had manipulated the schedule of consultation meetings, preventing Nakamata supporters from attending.

Tagay denied the allegations.

The *lumads* ceased their "attack" on the service center after some 30 minutes. They said they would use the footage to support a formal charge that they intended to file soon against some personnel of the NCIP.

Women lawyers break new ground

DUGONG MINDANAW

Samira Gutoc

We want to know what the Mindanaoan youngblood, middle-aged blood or high blood are thinking about what's happening in Mindanao and the rest of the country. -- ED.

OF THE hundred or more law graduates from Mindanao who are taking the bar exams that started on Sept. 2, more than half are women. And, as expected, of the almost 4,000 barristers, only a handful will make it.

Following the footsteps of women lawyers from Mindanao who are breaking new ground, the barristers dream of making it "big" in their provinces, in law firms in Metro Manila, in the government or even in nongovernment organizations. During People Power II, young women lawyers marched against Joseph Estrada and added drama to the anti-Estrada petitions filed before the Supreme Court and other government authorities.

For many of those aspiring to become lawyers, the advocacy continues beyond kicking out a "corrupt" President. They want peace, call for development and demand reforms in governance.

Women, in particular, are making their voices heard. Maranao Soraya Adiong-Mamao, a graduate from the San Beda College, looks forward to being part of a "young breed of Muslim law practitioners."

A bar topnotcher (among the Top 20) and the youngest female Maranao election lawyer, Soraya was bound to delve into Mindanao-related work. With a bodyguard in tow, she braved the hottest election spot in the country in her native locale in Marawi City to serve as one of the legal counsels of her uncle, now Gov. Mamintal Adiong.

In spite of the bombings during the canvassing of votes, Soraya trekked to the hilly venue of the counting every day to monitor the proceedings (the election results are still being contested before the Commission on Elections main office in Manila).

Maisara Dandamun-Latiph, a former youth leader, is the latest addition to the Bureau of Treasury's legal department. Aiming to engage initially in alternative lawyering (NGO work), she instead foresees economic-related work as her niche.

"We Muslims are not learned in the ways of business and financial systems," she observed.

Conferring with vice presidents of reputable banks, debt managers and business analysts is part of Maisara's daily work routine. A human rights advocate, she has since shifted to the realm of economic orientation.

"In business, time is of the essence and the people are results-oriented," she said, comparing her job to her advocacy work during her stint in the Muslim Youth and Students Alliance.

Soraya and Maisara are excited about global prospects for Mindanao, aware that the East Asean Growth Area (Eaga) and Asia are teeming with possibilities.

They also don't consider their work an obstacle to community involvement. Males dominate the legal profession, especially in the Muslim areas. In the Shariah courts, female practitioners are only a handful.

The sole litigation female lawyer in the Public Attorney's Office in Manila, Rowaisa Mandangan-Pandapatan, treads in the world of criminal law. An activist, Rowaisa, a Maranao and alumna of the Mindanao State University, finds *pro bono* lawyering as gratifying. The city jail is her haven as she deals with homicide and non-bailableS offenses.

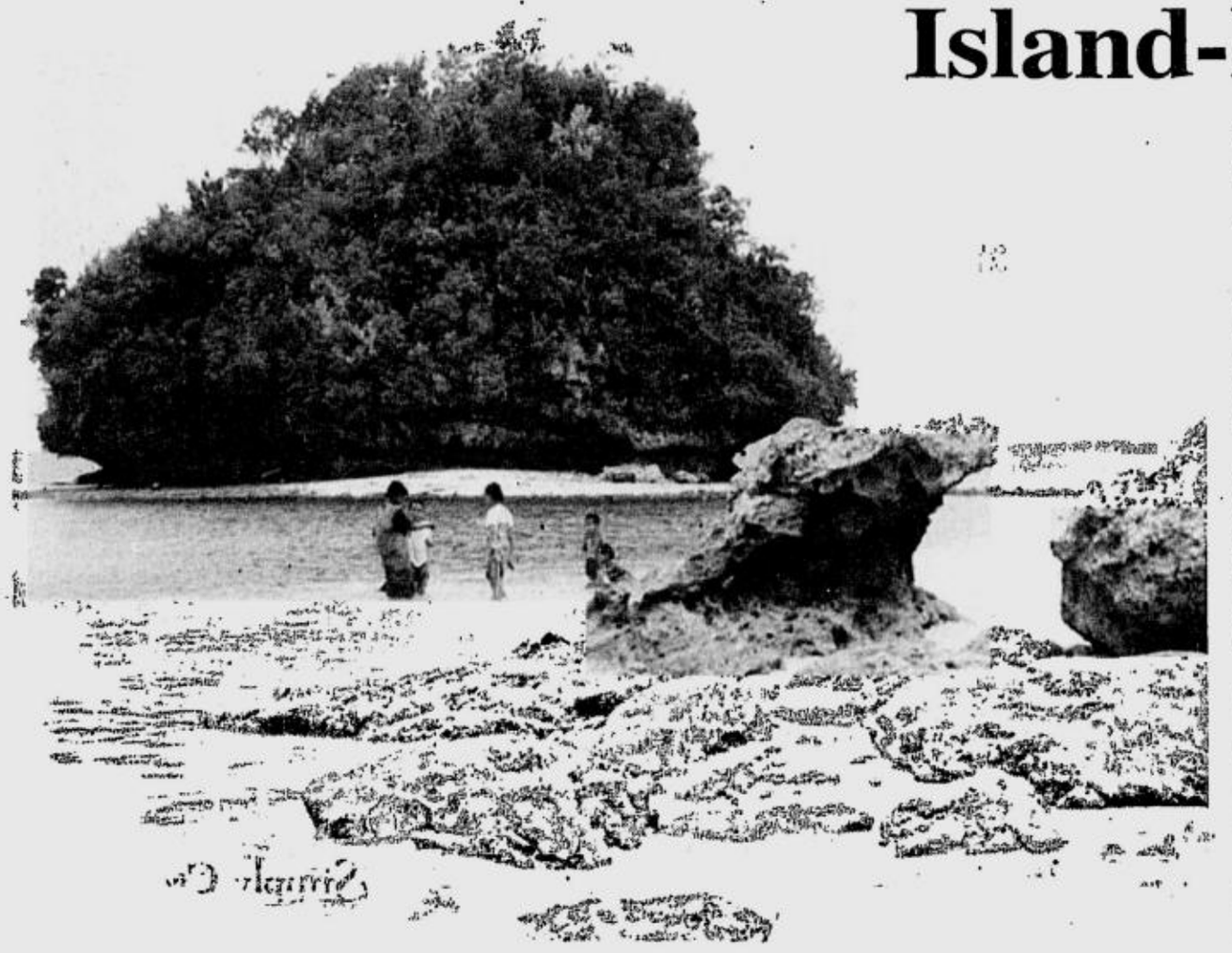
Rowaisa asserts that discrimination by Manila-based lawyers exists against graduates based in the provinces. Having won over three private prosecutors in defending illegal recruitment cases that are non-bailable, Rowaisa, without batting an eyelash, introduces herself as a product of a Mindanao-based law school.

To barristers, she advises, "it doesn't matter what school you came from; the only advantage of Manila schools is having the materials and resources."

"Determination is the key word," she adds.

As it goes, the bar exams will be the equalizing force.

Island-hopping in Britania



SUGARY white sand, clear blue waters, and fun and adventure await everyone at Britania. MA. KRISTINA CASSION

BY MA. KRISTINA E. CASSION
Surigao del Sur

IF YOU want to hie off somewhere just to see nature's boundless beauty and energy while seeking solace away from the typical and very commercial island beach resorts, try Britania in San Agustin, Surigao del Sur.

Britania hosts 25 virgin islands and islets of sugary white sand, and clusters of limestone hills jutting out of the sea, much like the fabled Hundred Islands of Pangasinan. During low tide, you get to see all 14 major islands and 11 islets; during high tide, one islet disappears.

San Agustin is 145 kilometers from Butuan City, the Caraga center. From there, ride a bus bound for Tandag in Surigao del Sur. Just ask the driver to drop you off in Barangay Sto. Niño and pay only P129. Then take a motorized *trisikad* to Britania for only P15.

For a tour around the islands—Bonbon, Hagonoy, Naked Island, Hikak and Buslon—you can always hire a motorized banca for P350.

After having enough of sightseeing, choose from among the islands where you can spread picnic blankets in the sand and eat with gusto while being serenaded by the waves and the wind.

But you must bring your own food and drinks since there are no restaurants there.

Try a romantic stroll, picking seashells or chasing sea gulls. The place is perfect for swimming, snorkeling and scuba diving.

For an overnight stay, be sure to bring tents and sleeping bags since there are no cottages available.

You will be alone for the night. The place is safe enough for night camps, according to the Department of Tourism.

TRAVEL & TOURISM

Although accommodations may sound primitive for the less adventurous, plans from the regional tourism office are under way to tap the full potential of the islands in terms of tourism.

The DOT regional office is planning to include island hopping in Britania as a side tour during the Kaliguan Festival of nearby Cagwait town every June.

In the meantime, the department will be inviting tourism council officers of Surigao del Sur for a visit to the Hundred Islands in Pangasinan to observe how the place was developed for tourism. To accommodate visitors, the DOT will be organizing residents for a home-stay program.

But for the adventurous, don't wait for these arrangements. Visit Britania, now.

A 61-YEAR-OLD resident of Barangay Bangan refuses to leave his home by the Bucao River despite warnings by authorities. JOAN BONDOC

EVACUEES at the Palanginan Elementary School board a bus that will bring them back to their homes. JOAN BONDOC

Botolan folk thank Virgin Mary for saving town again

(From page A1)

In very touching ways, many devotees said yesterday that they had pleaded to the Ina Poon Bato to perform a miracle for their endangered town.

And a miracle it was, resident Delia Galdiano, 51, told the INQUIRER.

Aeta Nida Cariño also attested that "Apo Apang"—their name for the Mother of God—was responsible for the gentle flow of the waters caused by what are now regarded as fortuitous errors in the construction of the canal leading from the crater-lake.

"Engineering intervention tried to prevent the disaster. But in the end it was divine intervention that protected the residents of Botolan," noted Rosellyn Magsaysay, wife of Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay.

"Because we were so busy hurrying to save lives, we almost forgot that the emergency period fell on the week of Marian celebrations, like the Virgin Mary's birthday on Sept. 8. But isn't that auspicious?" she said.

Everywhere it went

The governor's wife heads the Ina Poon Bato Foundation, which has taken the Blessed Mother's image to Catholic parishes in the Philippines, as well as parts of Asia, Europe and the United States since 1981.

Celso Al. Carunungan, a member of the foundation's historical committee, once wrote that "wherever the image went, reports of miraculous healing, reconciliation, manifestations of divine graces and various incredible incidents were heard and fully documented."

Devotees have reported seeing the image wink, weep, and emit oil or a scent of roses.

The origin of the image was a miracle from the very start, according to the accounts gathered by Carunungan.

Augustinian friars, the first missionaries to arrive in Botolan in the latter part of the 17th century, said they were stunned to find the Aetas venerating a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary even before Christianity made inroads in the Philippines.

The oral legend that has passed on to present-day Aetas is that their chieftain Djadig discovered the image while resting near a riverbank after a futile food-gathering expedition during a long drought.

The chieftain was awakened by a female voice that said, "Stand up, Djadig. Come to me. Take me home with you."

At home, Djadig's wife was angry that he had failed to find any food. She threw the statue into the fire.

But it was not damaged, and Djadig enshrined it on the rock where he had found it.

In 1712, Dominican missionaries installed the image, then called the Nuestra Señora de la Paz y Buen Viaje (Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage), in the town's church, which the Aetas never failed to visit.

Accounts said Aglipayans stormed the church in May 1897, and took the image with them after killing parish priest Juliano Jimenez del Rosario.

Since then, the image has graced the Aglipayan chapel at the foothills of Mt. Pinatubo.

Rallying symbol

In the 1980s, Zambales Bishop Henry Byrne and his successor Bishop Paciano Aniceto approved the mission to make the image the rallying symbol for the Holy Rosary Crusade for World Peace, a project of the Balikatan sa Kaunlaran Foundation.

On the seventh anniversary of Pope John Paul's papacy in 1985, the image stood beside the Pope's altar, according to Rosellyn Magsaysay.

Since Monday, a replica of the image had graced the altar at the hall of the Botolan municipal government.

As government volcanologists and engineers prepared to breach Pinatubo's crater-lake and rescue workers evacuated almost 90 percent of the town's 46,000 residents, devotees of Ina Poon Bato said the rosary by the hour, pleading for divine aid.

On Wednesday morning, residents embarked on a procession that ended at the Bucao River, where the lake waters were to be drained.

"The hands of God worked through the Ina Poon Bato," declared Delia Galdiano.

DPWH, Phivolcs blame each other

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BOTOLAN, Zambales—Miracle or not, bickering over who is to blame for the slow release of water from Mt. Pinatubo's crater-lake continues.

Assistant Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez yesterday said it was Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan, chief government volcanologist, who revised the design of the canal's opening to one meter, and, thus, should stop blaming the Department of Public Works and Highways.

"It was (Punongbayan's) idea. Now he is heaping the blame on us," Soriquez told the INQUIRER.

He said Punongbayan also approved the plan that the canal would release water at a "non-erodable speed" to avert the breakout of a big volume.

"It was designed such that the slope will not be very steep because we don't want any accident to happen," Soriquez added. "We have long expected that the water flow will be slow. Now he is blaming us for the trickle."

Because of recent rains, the 200 million cubic meters of water in the crater-lake had almost reached the level of the low Maraunot notch.

The rise in the water level prompted the government to build a canal envisioned to ease the pressure on the crater wall and prevent its collapse.

Punongbayan had noted "some foul-up in monitoring during the construction of the gradient (slope) of the canal's floor."

But Soriquez retorted that they had also agreed on the slope elevation of more or less one meter.

"I just wish criticisms and buck-passing will be avoided," he said in Filipino.

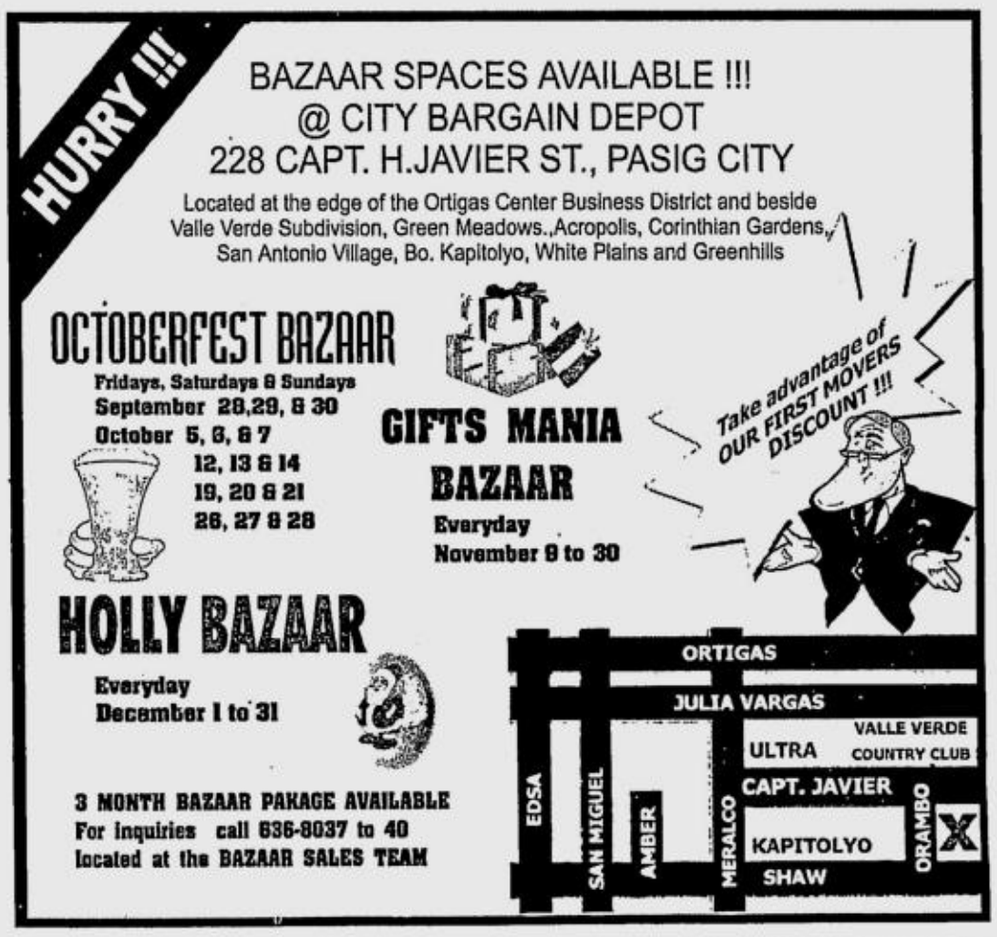
Soriquez also said he had rejected the plan of government geologists to lower the mouth of the canal by a meter more to hasten the water flow.

"That's out of the agreed design," he said, adding that any excavation or revision would have to be approved by the DPWH's Bureau of Design.

Soriquez has pulled out the three DPWH engineers and two surveyors assigned to supervise the digging at the volcano's summit for an assessment tomorrow.

Punongbayan also ordered the 50 Army soldiers and policemen to stop the diggings. However, four members of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology remained on the crater to observe the flow.

The flow rate had doubled to 0.213 cubic meters per second (or waist level) as of 7:15 a.m. yesterday, the Phivolcs team reported by radio from the Maraunot notch.



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(From page A1)

Or one can simply shoot the breeze under the cool shade of the trees and enjoy the peace and quiet in one of Metro Manila's few remaining ecological havens.

The new fees are 30 percent lower than the old rates of P50 for adults and P35 for kids. (The fee for foreigners, however, still stands at $1.)

"The much lower entrance fee is a welcome relief. Imagine, you can even take five members of your family to the park without hurting your pocket," said Las Piñas resident Annie Candido, who was taking her 4-year-old son Carl Angelo on a tour.

The last time Candido, 35, her sailor-husband and their two children visited the park was two years ago.

Slashing the entrance fee was the first official act of Charito Planas when she assumed the post of executive director of the Nayong Pilipino Foundation late in March.

"Before I took over, I toured the park and saw for myself that it was deserted. So I thought of reducing the entrance fee to lure people in," said Planas, who also runs the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City.

Her strategy paid off. The volume of visitors has grown by leaps and bounds—74 percent in April, 69 percent in May, 76 percent in June, and 121 percent in July, compared with the same period last year.

These days, it's common to see mothers strolling with their grade-school children; uniformed students romping on the grassy knolls resembling Bohol's Chocolate Hills; or Korean tourists posing for pictures before a replica of Mayon Volcano, pride of the Bicol region.

To add spice to the usual attractions, Planas has introduced cultural activities for each month, such as the reenactment of Lenten practices in April; the Santacruzan in May; and garden shows in June and July.

Yesterday, the park hosted a sports festival dubbed "Palarong Pinoy" and featuring the country's indigenous games, including *sipa*.

Students from 62 Metro Manila schools took part in the daylong event.

Adults first

Surprisingly, schoolchildren, who are often bused to the Nayong Pilipino for an educational tour, do not make up the bulk of visitors. They come only second to adults, and foreigners, third.

In July, for instance, 24,850 of the 35,800 visitors were adults, 7,512 were children, and 3,438 were foreigners.

If nothing else, the figures show that adults still appreciate the sights, if not the tranquility, inside the government-owned park, which has not seen much improvement in the past years.

Set up in 1970, the park replicates on a small scale the regions of Ilocos, Cordillera, Tagalog, Bicol, Visayas and Mindanao.

The first-time visitor will be struck by the faithful replication of such landmarks as the Mayon Volcano, the rice terraces in Banaue, or Emilio Aguinaldo's house in Kawit, Cavite.

Other visual treats are life-size native dwellings, such as the Samal house on stilts and a datu's house in Mindanao, the small Ifugao hut, and the brick-walled Vigan house.

Still, there are some minor disappointments. Except for the 19th century *bahay na tisa* (stone house), which showcases turn-of-the-century furniture and other household implements, all the other houses offer nothing much inside except the usual souvenir items made from shells and wood.

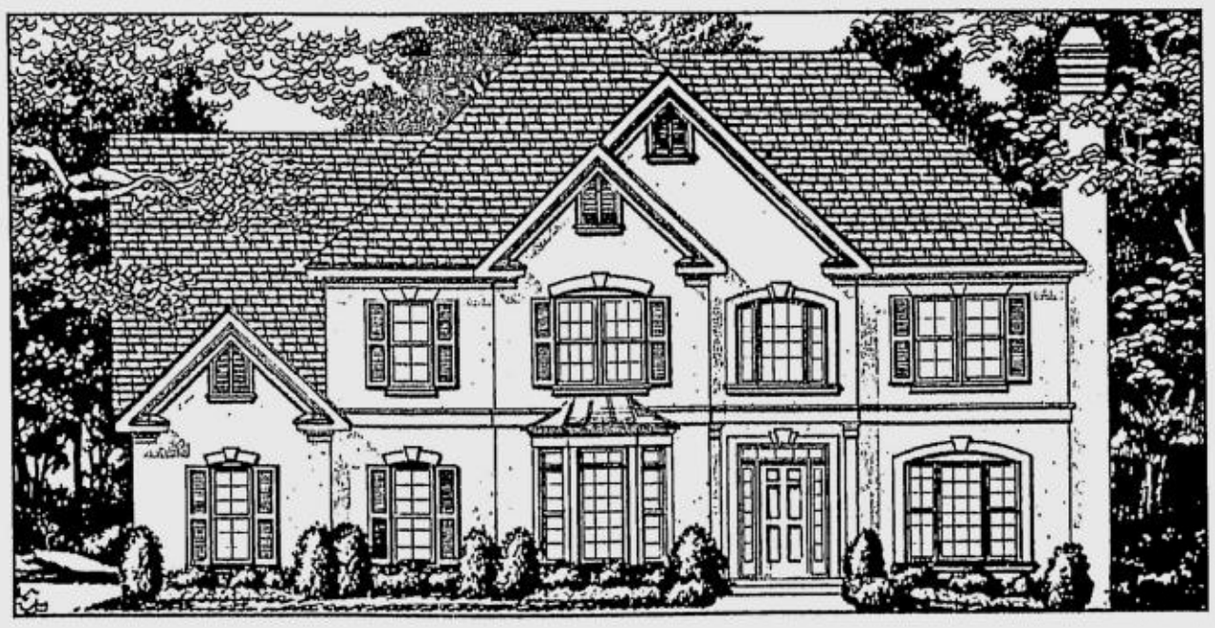
Aviary, etc.

Beyond these structures, one can visit the aviary, the aquarium, the garden of Philippine plants, or the museum of ethnology, where indigenous people's wear and jewelry are on display.

At the end of an exhausting, hour-long tour, one can take a banca ride at P20 per person at the park's lagoon or relax on the benches overlooking it.

Indeed, a visit to the Nayong Pilipino is now an attractive, even urgent, idea. Some 11 hectares, where the Tagalog, Visayas, Bicol and Mindanao regions are located, will be closed early next year to make way for the construction of a taxi way for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal III.

The four regions' attractions will be torn down. And it will take six months or more to rebuild them on a vacant portion of the park.



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Ping: They're so cruel

(From page A1)

Autograph seekers dogged Lacson as he and his guests shared a meal of crispy *pata*, blue marlin, *kare-kare*, Bicol Express, pancit canton and fried rice at the Pantalan Restaurant near the Quirino Grandstand at Manila's Rizal Park.

Lacson gave two reasons for choosing the restaurant: "Wong is my friend," and it is near the Senate building.

"I even invited Kim Wong to have a dinner with us tonight but he probably feels uncomfortable," he said of the restaurateur and garments manufacturer who has been accused of being Lacson's contact in a Hong Kong triad.

Referring to his accusers, who have linked him to a variety of alleged crimes ranging from laundering drug money abroad to ordering summary executions and kidnappings, Lacson said: "At the end of the day, I ask God that these people be enlightened, *kung puwede naman tigilan na ako*. I'm sure (military intelligence chief) Victor Corpus knows there is nothing. I'm sure Mary Ong knows she is lying. Especially that guy, Ador (ex-civilian asset Angelo Mawanay)."

"Rosebud" Ong, a former anti-narcotics undercover agent, and Ador have both testified at an ongoing Senate hearing to corroborate Corpus' charges against Lacson.

He suspected Wong

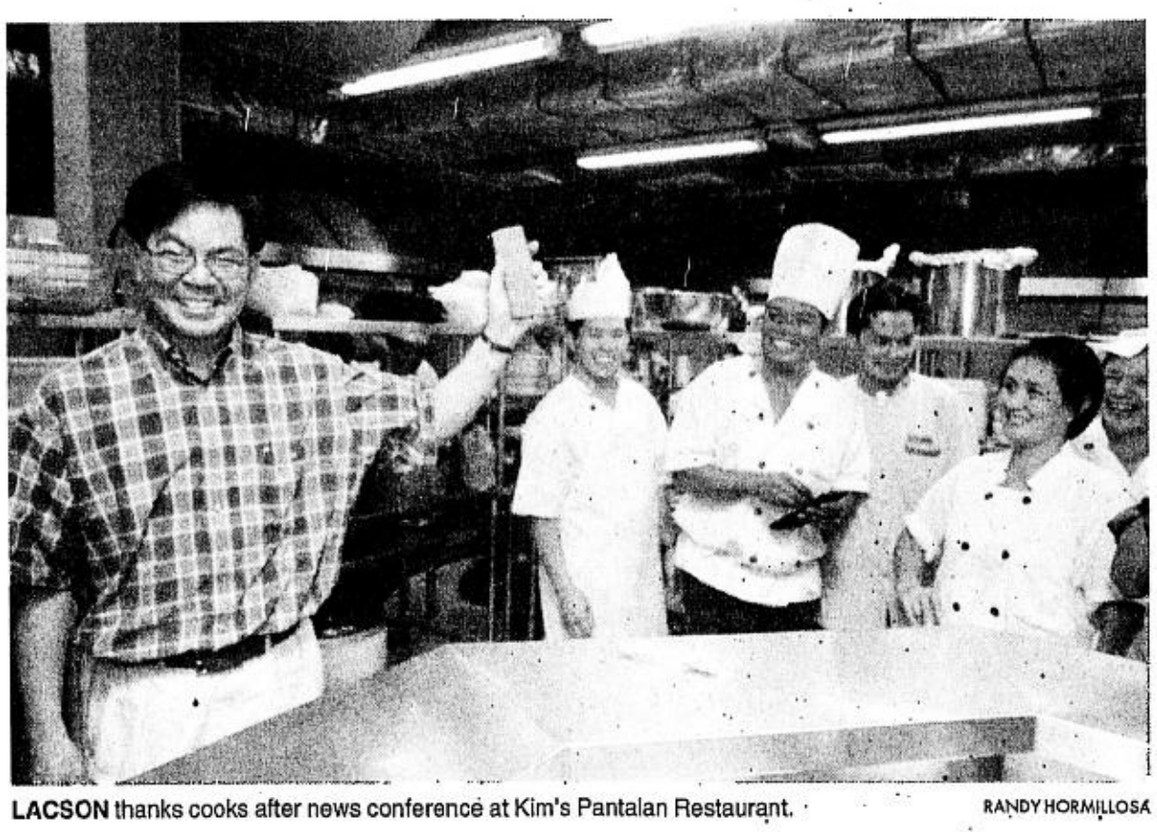
"I'm not denying that Kim Wong is my friend. I'm just wondering why some people make a big deal out of it, like harping on the seating arrangement inside the plane we took when he was with us once," Lacson told the Senate reporters.

Corpus delivered a PowerPoint presentation during one of the Senate hearings showing that Wong was Lacson, aide Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino and lawyer Evaristo Gana on a Cathay Pacific flight on Sept. 2, 1999.

According to Lacson, Wong, an acquaintance at the time, happened to be on the same flight and asked if he could travel with them.

"Kim Wong was not aware of it but Attorney Gana copied his embarkation card and secretly gave it to the Hong Kong police when we arrived. Gana asked them to check him out as he was just a new acquaintance. We were worried that he might have a dossier with them, that he might be a drug lord," Lacson revealed.

"The following day, the Hong Kong police said he was clean. So we relaxed. Kim Wong does not have a record. Attorney Gana will testify to that (in the Senate). We're pretty sure Kim Wong is not involved in drugs," he stressed.



LACSON thanks cooks after news conference at Kim's Pantalan Restaurant. RANDY HORMILLOSA

I don't deny what occurred on Sept. 2. I was with Kim. Kim Wong is my friend. Why was it necessary to point out such seating arrangements?" he said, not hiding his irritation.

Roco next?

Lacson turned reticent when asked to comment on the conduct of the ongoing Senate inquiry into Corpus' allegations. "It is up to the senators to terminate the hearings, if they believe they have enough information in aid of legislation," he said.

"But the Senate in a bind because they got into this mess and it's hard to get out of it. But the majority started it. The majority rules in a democracy. They rushed into an investigation and now it's difficult to come out of it," Lacson added.

Asked by one reporter why the Macapagal administration seemed to be picking on him, he answered: "I'm asking myself the same question. Why me? I have asked that several times. I have my own speculations but I'd rather keep them to myself. I think it's political."

"I can see no other reason. I don't have enemies among the officials of the present administration. Nothing personal, so it must be political," he said.

The senator said he has received reports that once his enemies are through with him, they will train their guns next on Education Secretary Raul Roco.

"I don't know how accurate that is but we received information that after they get tired of me, the next target will be Secretary Roco," he said in Taglish.

He clarified, however, that "this is just information I got. I don't know if it will actually happen, if the info is accurate, but somebody told me that this is the plan. This report . . . is very raw."

Questioned on his political plans for the presidential election in 2004, he said, "I have not yet fully adjusted to politics and being a senator, so I cannot tell you if I'm planning for the next election. It has never crossed my mind."

'Ganging up on me'

Despite his rough entry into politics, Lacson believes he has gone through worse trials, citing the scandal at the height of the Kuratong Baleleng case six years ago.

"After Kuratong Baleleng, I believe I can overcome this," he said.

According to the legislator, the justice department's attempt to revive the multiple-murder case is one manifestation of the ongoing demolition job against him.

"The attempt to revive the case just shows how determined they are. It shows they are really ganging up on me," Lacson fumed.

The Court of Appeals (CA) earlier dismissed the case after noting that a two-year prescription period had elapsed since the 11 members of the criminal gang were killed in an alleged police rubout in May 1995. Lacson was then head of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission Task Force, whose members engaged the suspects in a gunfight.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez has asked the Supreme Court to review the appellate court's decision on the grounds that the CA erred in procedure and that the applicable law specifies a 20-year prescription period.

The Department of Justice has new witnesses to prove that it was a rubout and not a shootout as Lacson and his men claim, according to Perez.

"When Secretary Perez showed that unusual interest to reverse (the CA) decision, and I heard that the President was present when they were discussing how they will arrest me, it's implied that they are influencing the justices of the SC by showing how interested they are in the case. But I believe in the independence of the SC justices and I'm confident they will rule in accordance with provisions," he said.

'No rumors'

Lacson chided his detractors for focusing on his supposed offenses at the time when "jueteng is on the rise and the drug problem is getting worse."

"When I was chief of the Philippine National Police, kidnapping was down to practically nil. Now the authorities themselves are saying it is up by 93 percent based on records . . . I'm sure it's more than that if they include the unreported kidnappings," he said.

"If I was really involved in drugs when I was PNP chief, how come there were not even rumors about that? How come everything supposed against me is coming out only now? There were no rumors then because nothing really happened. They are only coming out now because it is only now that they have fabricated these things, that they have invented these," Lacson claimed.

He said that any wrongdoing committed by a senior official, like a PNP director general, would not go unnoticed or unreported.

"A chief of the PNP cannot smuggle that big an amount of illegal drugs without using cohorts. He cannot smuggle in P450 billion worth of *shabu* (methamphetamine hydrochloride) as they claim. I would have to use several officers and the stories could not be avoided, even in the rumor mill," he said.

The senator had plenty to say when the topic changed to Mawanay, Corpus' most controversial witness. "I have not seen him before. The first time I did was during the start of the Senate hearing. *Nandoon, patingin-tingin sa akin*. He was probably studying my moves so that if he testifies anew, he can identify my mannerisms," Lacson surmised.

"Just imagine a guy like Ador testifying—as if we have been that intimate. I've never met him, I've never known him. So there are people like that after all, people whom you hope not to meet in your lifetime, and whom you pray you won't meet in 10 lifetimes," he said.

Pimentel prays for rule of law

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

WHILE Catholics yesterday celebrated the birth anniversary of the Virgin Mary, Senate Minority Floor Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. repeated a prayer he delivered on the Senate floor Wednesday: that his former allies in civil society don't become self-righteous zealots in their crusade for morality in politics.

"Show also Your servants in civil society that the search for Truth in a democratic government is necessarily structured by the rule of law that will not condemn anyone before it hears appropriate evidence," Pimentel asked God.

"Teach also your servants in civil society that in Your way nobody has a monopoly of what is right and just, and . . . that they may not self-righteously condemn as sinners those whose ideas vary from them," Pimentel added.

Copies of Pimentel's prayer were distributed yesterday while the senator spoke at the weekly forum at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City.

He told the forum that he and his colleagues in the Senate were under much pressure from civil society groups to punish Sen. Panfilo Lacson for his alleged criminal activities.

But Pimentel stressed that the Senate ethics committee has not received any complaint against his beleaguered colleague, that the cases filed against Lacson in the Ombudsman's office and in the courts remain unresolved, and that the senators have yet to see concrete evidence of Lacson's alleged crimes.

Pimentel said it would take two of three more hearings before the Senate wraps up its inquiry. He said there would probably be no hearings during a two-week Senate break, as proposed by some senators, because Sen. Robert Barbers is scheduled to undergo medical treatment.

Text message hooks snatcher

(From page A1)

whose Nokia 5110 cell phone was snatched on Sagat Street, Paco, as he was waiting for a jeepney ride.

Her text mate: Jericho (not his real name), the suspected snatcher.

Upon learning of the snatching on Sept. 2, Reena sent a message to his brother's cell phone number, saying she was looking for a text mate and possibly a boyfriend.

The youth fell for Reena's ruse. For five days, the two were inseparable on the wireless, exchanging love notes and sweet nothings.

Then Reena sent the text message that Jericho would never forget for the rest of his life. She said she wanted to see him in the flesh.

After another flurry of text messages, the two agreed to meet at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Sta. Ana church. Jericho told Reena he would be bringing three roses for identification.

Before meeting with Jericho, however, Reena sought the assistance of SPO3 Ramon de Jesus of the Western Police District Command's Station 7.

De Jesus, head of the station's anti-crime unit, posted several plainclothesmen around the church.

Jericho, dressed up to the nines, showed up at the church and landed straight into the waiting arms of the police at 10 a.m. sharp.

Police found in Jericho's possession three roses and a Nokia 3210 cell phone.

As he was being led away, Jericho could only look at his ex-future girlfriend.

At the police station, Manuel positively identified Jericho as the snatcher of his cell phone.

SPO3 De Jesus told reporters that his men recovered from Jericho's Nokia 3210 cell phone the SIM card that belonged to Manuel's stolen unit.

Jericho said he bought the SIM card from someone else.

De Jesus said he would turn over Jericho to the WPD Station 5, under whose jurisdiction the theft took place.

2-story house is tower of hope for addicts

(From page A1)

in Cambridge, Massachusetts, before returning to Manila to found the center in 1999.

The center currently has 12 clients—six in the intensive or primary treatment phase and the rest in the "aftercare" phase. Their ages range from 15 to 42. The center once had a 60-year-old client.

Car for shabu

Both Christina Rañoa, 29, and Gabby Zulueta, 28, say that the center helped them recover from drug and alcohol abuse. Christina is now on her fourth month in the intensive care, while Gabby has finished the program and is in the aftercare or continuing care phase.

At the height of his drug dependency, Gabby sold his Honda civic car, only to waste the money on a two-month supply of *shabu*.

Christina was a pre-school teacher before she became addicted to *shabu*. She says she started using the drug "to numb the pain" of a bad marriage.

"My relationship with the father of my two kids was not working out," she recounts. "I was really going through cycles of depression."

At one party, a friend taught her to use *shabu*. "At first I was afraid to use it. What will people think of me? But the first try led to another . . . then to another . . . until I couldn't get enough."

Christina says she took *shabu* and marijuana for five years, "but during the last year, they didn't numb the pain." She began to crave for more. "To my utter shock, the more I took, the more I would get depressed."

Eventually, Christina admits, she lost everything. "I sold everything I had . . . I came to a point when I even had to steal the money intended for my children's milk just to buy drugs."

To a drug dependent, "money has no value," she says. "You can even sell your cell phone for P250 just to buy drugs."

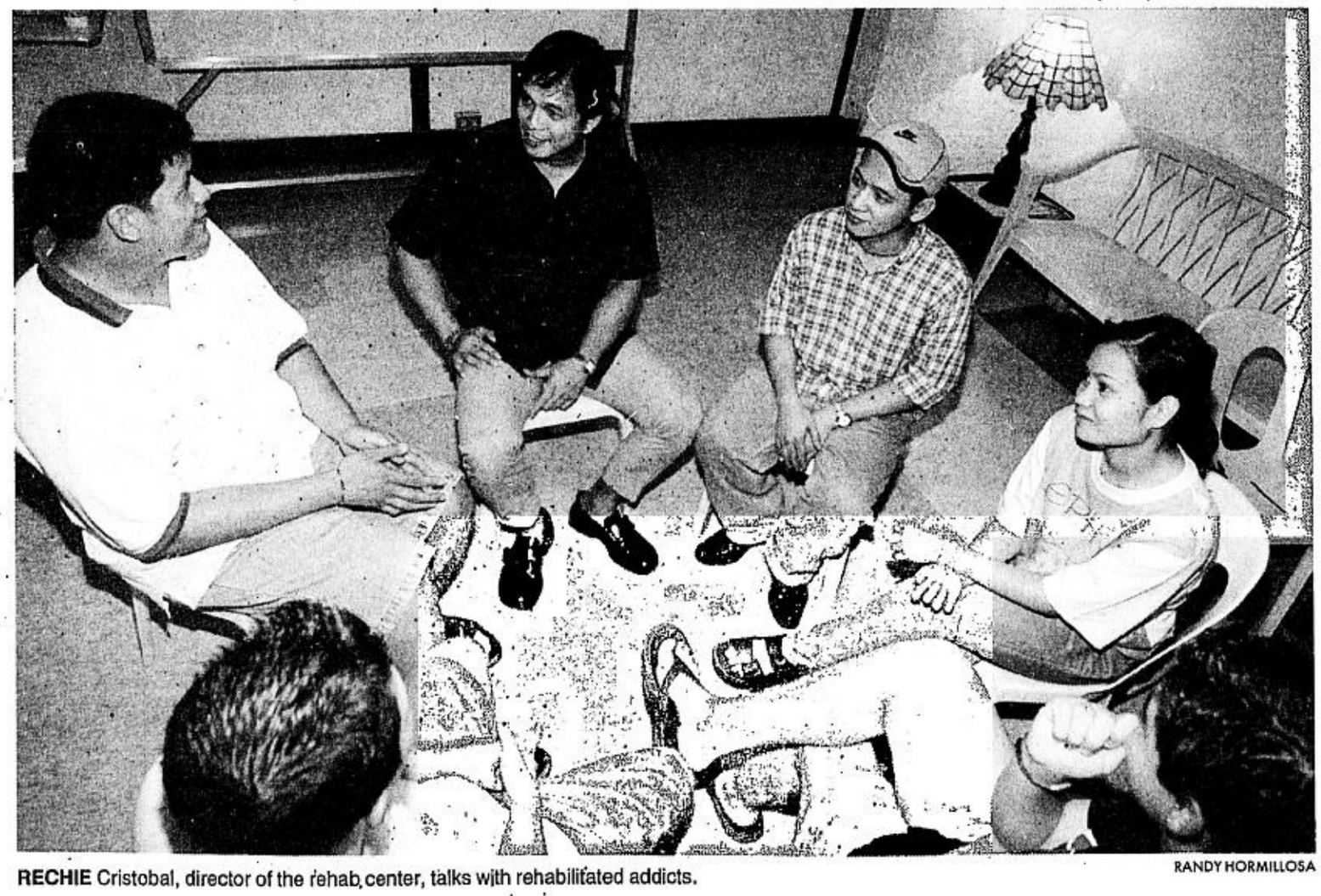
Poly-drug user

At the height of his addiction, Gabby started to neglect and abuse his girlfriend, a top model.

"The worst thing was not what happened to me but to the people that I care about. Every time my girlfriend and I would fight, I would lock myself in the bathroom while using *shabu*. My girlfriend would cry herself to sleep . . . and I wouldn't mind," he remembers.

Gabby started doing drugs when he was in the United States. "At first it was just curiosity. *Tikim* (a taste). In the States, you have to take it during rave parties to have fun" he says. Later, he became addicted to *shabu*, called "ice" in the West.

He also began using other illegal substances like marijuana, Ecstasy and LSD when he went back to Manila. "I was a poly-drug user. I would take Ecstasy since it's a party drug, not just a sex drug. LSD is hallucinogenic, ideal if your trip is to hallucinate."



RECHIE Cristobal, director of the rehab center, talks with rehabilitated addicts. RANDY HORMILLOSA

He never thought when he started that his dependency on drugs would last for more than 10 years.

Gabby reached a chronic stage of addiction because he could not get leave his house without first taking drugs. "I took them to sleep, wake up, get out of the house," he recalls.

"Last year I was doing drugs everyday."

Clean and sober

With the help of Rechie and his staff, Christina and Gabby have their lives back. They may not be totally rehabilitated yet, but they say that their lives have assumed a sense of direction and purpose.

Gabby says he has been "clean and sober" for over nine months.

Christina intends to go back to work. "It's a miracle," she says.

"Going back to work may be a simple thing for everyone else, but for me it's a complete turnaround. Before I didn't care about my family and even my kids. Before I couldn't imagine life without drugs. Now, after treatment, I realize that I don't have to do it; it will not solve my woes."

Rechie says that the success rate of the center's treatment is between 60 and 70 percent.

"The process will actually take a lifetime. The damage done by years of abuse on the emotional, psychological and physical aspects of the dependent's life cannot be reversed instantly," he says.

No magic wands

"There are no shortcuts or magic wands to cure addictions. But there's hope with the help of the dependent's family," Rechie adds.

Compared to other rehabilitation centers, the center does not rely on medication to treat its clients, according to Rechie. It focuses on the therapeutic value of group discussions and one-on-one counseling, he says.

"The parents and siblings have a lot to do with the rehabilitation and recovery of the client," he says.

Once a week, particularly on Saturdays, family members or friends join the dependents for family therapy sessions.

"The Family Wellness Center adopts a uniquely different approach in treating the disease of chemical dependency under its programs, which are all 'live-out' program for chemical dependents. In hoping to directly help those who are affected by the disease, the FWC involves the family members in order to build a caring community for the recovery and growth of the chemically-dependent person," he stresses.

The rehabilitation program is anchored on 12 steps drawn up by US Narcotics Anonymous, the international support network for victims of substance abuse.

"We realized we were sick people. We suffered from a disease from which there is no known cure. It can, however, be arrested at some point, and recovery is then possible," said Rechie, quoting from a Narcotics Anonymous booklet.

The program is structured around five phases spread over several months: orientation, detoxification, intensive treatment, follow through, and a 90-day aftercare phase to prevent a relapse.

Rechie and his staff members believe that addiction or dependency is a disease, not a moral issue. "One does not become immoral just because he or she is an addict. He or she is just sick, thus he or she needs treatment," Rechie says.

Contact numbers

The center has nine staff members, including guidance counselors and a nurse. It also uses the services of consultants from top hospitals in Metro Manila.

Most of the clients were referred by Rechie's family friends or by doctors.

"But to be accepted into the program, there is no need for a referral or recommendation. It's important that the client is willing to recover," Rechie says.

Another prerequisite: Family members must attend the family therapy sessions. "If they will not participate, we will turn down the application," he says.

The center charges fees covering treatment, board and lodging, and a physical fitness program, among others. It caters to clients from the A-C economic brackets.

At one stage, the clients are required to live with their fellow dependents at the center. For one month, there will be no telephone calls and visits from friends or families. The clients are also barred from leaving the center.

Later, "upon our determination, the clients can go out—this is the start of the live-out program," Rechie says.

During this phase, which deals with the patient's growth as a person, "the dependent will have a full daily schedule and still be on a live-out basis—a distinct feature of this program. Being on a five-out basis, the dependent can easily adapt to the real world upon treatment," according to Rechie.

He can be reached through Tel. Nos. 899-6616/86.

RP TEAM DINNER

Cito calls Mike 'disgusting'

BY DENNIS U. EROA

KUALA LUMPUR—Cito Dayrit's first attempt to transform himself from Philippine Olympic Committee president into a comedian ended in disaster Friday night during the get-together dinner for the Philippine delegation tendered by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo at the banquet hall of the Crown Princess Hotel here.

Aiming to put humor to his speech, Dayrit shocked everybody when he addressed Arroyo and sports officials, including PSC chair Carlos Tuason, and the Filipino ambassador to Malaysia Jose Brillantes, as "disgusting" personalities in the round table.

Of course, Dayrit was just joking. He later corrected himself saying "distinguished" but the damage had been done.

Also seated with Dayrit were former POC chief and athletics kingpin Jose Sering, commissioners Weena Lim, Cynthia Carrion and Ritchie Garcia, presidential son and Pampanga vice governor Mike Arroyo, and Rep. Monico Puentevella, who also acted as master of ceremonies. Also present was IOC representative to the Philippines Freddie Elizalde.

Arroyo and company shrugged off Dayrit's "joke" but not all among the 300 plus guests, including a sprinkling of foreigners and members of the embassy staff were amused.

"That wasn't really proper," said a coach, who declined to be identified. "It was a joke, but it wasn't a good joke."

Dayrit exhorted the Filipino athletes to give their best and said that win or lose they are all flag-bearers for the country.

Chef de mission Freddie Jalasco, Tuason and Brillantes also made speeches, but the loudest cheers were reserved for the First Gentleman. Arroyo likened the athletes and officials to warrior heroes and promised an additional $200 allowance for the team and P2-million help for the whole delegation from the president's foundation.

While he stressed that he was instructed by the President to join the parade of athletes and officials, Arroyo singled out the men's basketball team. "Don't lose because you're going to shame me, the president and the government."

FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo (fifth from right) is joined by Rep. Monico Puentevella, Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason, Philippine Sports Commissioners Richie Garcia, Cynthia Carreon and Weena Lim and chef de mission Freddie Jalasco after the dinner at Crown Princess Hotel.

RP sked today

(Sept. 9)

SWIMMING: 8 a.m.—Women's 100 free (L. Ang), women's 200 backstroke (L. Danila, L. Dacanay), men's 400 im (C. Piccio), women's 200 im (L. Danila, J. Guerrero), men's 4x 200m freestyle relay (C. Piccio, M. Molina, M. Kalaw, M. Mendoza).

SNOOKER: 10 a.m.—RP (M. Manalo-J. Ortega) vs Malaysia (doubles)

BOXING: 3 p.m.—Preliminaries

EQUESTRIAN: 8 a.m.—Showjumping individual, qualifying (V. Barba, D. Cojuangco, P. Zobel, J. Santos)

GYMNASTICS: 2 p.m.—Women's artistic (P. Reyes, P. Reyes, P. Espiritu, M. Purugganan, A. Difuntorum, A. Cruz)

KARATE-DO: 9 a.m.—Ind. kata, men (N. Espinosa), Ind. kumite, women (M. Pabillore, -48 kg; G. Malalad, +kg); Individual kumite, men (R. Leon, -55 kg; R. Mariano III, 75 kg; J. Pabilloro, (80 kg)

SEPAK TAKRAW: 2 p.m.—Men's team, Myanmar vs RP (C. Magtangob, R. Ruedas Jr., G. Saavedra) 5 p.m.—Women's regu, RP (E. Bernardo, C. Dionisio, D. Autor, E. Limoc) vs Cambodia

BASKETBALL: 6 p.m.—RP vs. Vietnam (Women)

SHOOTING: 8 a.m.—10-m air pistol, women, final (S. Aguado, T. Cantada, L. Ramirez 50-m free pistol, men, final (C. Gonzales, M. Gonzales, G. Escobar) Men's trap, 50 targets, final

TAEKWONDO: 9 a.m.—Bantamweight/featherweight (M. Rivero Jr., J. Go, J. Strachan, K. Tamayo)

TENNIS: 9 a.m.—Men's/ladies' teams, 1st round (J. Arcilla, M. Mora III, J. Victorino, J. Lizardo/C. Arevalo, J. Saret, K. Guzman)

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL: 3 p.m.—Indonesia vs RP

WUSHU: 9:30 a.m.—Preliminaries round

Basketball results

PBA—Sta. Lucia 84, Swift 78; Purefoods 97, Alaska 89

UAAP—La Salle 75, Adamson 67; FEU 67, UST 63

NCAA— CSB 77, Letran 71, OT

Zamar turns down M'sia offer to practice vs Pinoys

BY DENNIS U. EROA

KUALA LUMPUR—Even if star slotman Romel Adducul walks with a limp, coach Boyzie Zamar remains upbeat of the Philippines' chance to keep the men's basketball title.

The Philippines battles Indonesia tomorrow (Sept. 10) at the start of the competitions at the Malaysian Basketball Association gym.

Not taking any chances, Zamar also turned down an offer by the host Malaysians to play the Philippines in a practice game even if the request came from Yeoh Choo Hock, secretary general of the ABC which helped Tiny Literal gain recognition from the Fiba.

"It's going to be a win-or-lose situation for us," said Zamar.

Zamar was silent on Adducul's injury.

The Philippine women's basketball team starts its campaign on Sunday against Vietnam. But unlike the men's , the women's is expected to trail host Malaysia and Thailand in the battle for the gold.

Also competing in the men's division are Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand.

"We're ready," said Zamar.

Filipinos fail to haul . . .

(From page A18)

pic Committee, was hardly disappointed by the country's first day show. He tried to lift the spirit of Team Philippines.

"The athletes are upbeat especially that their morale was boosted after that fellowship dinner hosted by the First Gentleman (Mike Arroyo)," said Dayrit. Dayrit was referring to Arroyo's announcement Friday night of an additional $200 allowance for the athletes who are already receiving $300 each from the PSC. He also pledged new incentives for gold medalists, which were different from what President Arroyo had promised during the Malacañang sendoff.

The Filipino athletes who are expected to bag no less than 40 golds and finish at least fourth overall, plunge into action today in swimming, snooker, basketball, boxing, equestrian, cycling, fencing, women's football, gymnastics, karatedo, taekwondo, boxing, tennis, women's volleyball and wushu.

Focus will be on fencing, snooker, karatedo, taekwondo, boxing and wushu, sports where officials are expecting multiple golds.

The Malaysian hosts impressed foreign delegates with their warm treatment and untiring effort to help. Hitches were noted in accreditation but these were later addressed.

Another problem was the transportation from the hotel to the venue, which is 45 minutes away by land from this fascinating city. Dayrit said the Games have enjoined sports leaders to unite and work solidly for a common goal. "The spirit of unity and solidarity is present," Dayrit said.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: US Open 2001, Women's Singles Final at 8 a.m. (r – 10:30 p.m.), Men's Singles/Ladies Doubles Finals tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. on Star Sports
GOLF: Golf Classics - 18 Toughest Holes in Golf in the US at 7 a.m. (r) on ESPN
PGA Bell Canadian Open - Third Round at 1 p.m. on Star Sports
Golfglobe 2001 at 5:30 p.m. on Star Sports
BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
Asian Basketball Show at 6 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
MOTOR SPORTS: Cart Molson at 8:30 a.m. (r) on ESPN

Lesson to learn

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

NOW I remember.

Indonesia was a poor third in the 1999 Brunei SEA Games because it did not send all its top athletes then. Actually, Indonesia was being rocked politically at that time and so, it failed to assemble its best for the Games. This was confirmed to me by some Indonesian golf officials present in Brunei. Thailand was overall champion with 65 gold medals, followed by Malaysia with 57. Indonesia, the perennial champion, had to settle with 44.

And then the other surprise, if not the real shocker in Brunei.

The Philippines could only place fifth, winning a measly 19 gold medals. Singapore, with a population of less than 5 million compared to the Philippines' 78 million, was fourth with 23 gold medals.

The sadder part was, we won by only two gold medals over Vietnam, which had 17. If not for the three gold medals in billiards, we would not have surpassed Vietnam.

Thus, using the Brunei Games as barometer, can we now say that the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam will fight neck and neck for fourth overall?

Likewise, will it be safe to say that the Top 3 slots will be a tossup among Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia?

Historically, every host of the SEA Games scores well. If not to emerge champion, it will finish a strong second. Malaysia, being the host country and already a gallant runner-up in 1991, is then predicted as a strong contender for the crown. Of course, Thailand is expected to go all out to keep the title. But Indonesia, its political system still unstable, is a doubtful returnee to the throne it had held for decades.

For the record, Brunei, as host in 1999, scored its biggest haul of gold medals with 4. Myanmar had 3 and Laos 1. Cambodia brought up the rear with not a single medal to show.

It is interesting to note that Cambodia has been the Games' most consistent last placer since the biennial event's birth in 1977. It scored a record of sorts in 1999 when it did not win a gold, a silver or a bronze. Zero all the way. Yet, the country isn't stopping. Demoralized maybe but quitting the Games altogether? No. As one Cambodian sports official told me in Brunei, when I inquired about their inability to excel "even if only in one sport," he said: "Our government does not require us to win. Not yet. It just wants us to play our best at all times."

I think there's some lesson to learn there.

WILLIAMS VS WILLIAMS
Sisters Serena (left) and Venus Williams, both shown during their separate semifinal matches Friday, will meet each other for the US Open ladies crown Sunday (Monday in Manila). Venus, 21, came from behind to beat Jennifer Capriati, 6-4, 6-2, while Serena, 19, tripped world No. 1 and top seed Martina Hingis, 6-3, 6-2. The Williamses' match will be the first between sisters for a Grand Slam crown since Maud Watson defeated Lilian Watson at Wimbledon in 1884. AP

Davao Rotary tourney gets boost

TAYLOR Made-Adidas makes its first major involvement in the Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGFFP) tournament series by serving as the major sponsor of the southern leg slated next week in Davao.

Taylor Made-Adidas is putting up a prize package worth P320,000, including three Taylor Made Firesole iron sets worth P200,000 that will be raffled off during the awards night on Sept. 22 at the official hotel, Marco Polo.

The newly opened Rancho Palos Verdes Golf Club and the Apo Golf and Country Club will host the tournament proper on Sept. 19-23.

For more information, call RGFFP office c/o Pancho Perea or Theresa Romero at tel. no. 721-0564, 721-8896 and fax. no. 721-5940. For participants from the south, call PP Anton Florendo of RC Cebu Port Centre ... tel. no. (032)2535720 and PP Sonny Garcia of RC West Davao at (082)2242497

Pride shows way as Woods falters

MONTREAL—Dicky Pride and the pride of Canada were atop the leaderboard after two rounds of the Canadian Open Friday, but a proud Tiger Woods wasn't close.

On a day when the Royal Montreal Golf Club record was broken twice, Woods took a bizarre triple-bogey and dropped from a share of the lead to seven shots behind the leader.

Pride set the pace at nine-under-par 131 after firing six birdies in a six-under 64 that briefly stood as a course record. Winless since claiming his only PGA Tour title in 1994, Pride was one shot ahead of David Morland and Matt Gogel, who shot 63 and 67.

Woods, the defending champion and top-ranked player in the world, triple-bogeyed the second hole — his 11th — and never recovered en route to a 73.

Nilo's suggestions

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

FORMER champion Nilo Natividad, whose love for tennis is equalled only by his fascination for horseracing, sent us this very interesting letter regarding the popular events trifecta, pentafecta, quartet and superfecta .

Nilo, now the coach of the UST varsity team, is calling the attention of the Manila Jockey Club and Philippine Racing Club. Here's his letter:

Dear Edwin,

In behalf of many concerned racing aficionados especially the poor or lower income group from the different off track betting (OTB's) stations in Manila, I write to you regarding the proliferation of too many pentafecta, superfecta and super 6 events even in a field of only eight (8) horses.

To start with, like what you mentioned in your Aug. 19 column (One Winner), balanced handicapping of entries is the main reason why the Philippine Racing Club outgrossed the Manila Jockey Club Araw ng Maynila week ticket sales.

I learned that the gross sales of trifecta/quartet and pentafecta are not far from each other depending on the handicap of horses and balance of entries as reflected in the Aug. 19 MJCI race results.

The single superfecta event was the only one that outgrossed the three other betting events on arrival of horses scheme with sales reaching P235,000, or P40,000 more than the average of the others. If you likewise study the sales of the results in the just concluded PRCI races, you will see that sales of quartet/penta and super 6 are not far from each other. In fact, sales in the trifecta race of group A horses last Sunday reached P193,000 which was better than the other pentafecta races of that day. The only time that sales are overwhelming is if there is a carryover. In addition, a last-minute scratching in a field of only eight horses will refund the pentafecta bets of that particular race. *Sayang*.

If you happen to drop by OTBS, try to hear the comments of racegoers especially those outside the exclusive areas. They are saying one thing in common and that is the penta and super 6 are for the rich and famous because you need a bigger capital if you wish to win. It's true.

There is a big difference between betting WTA/Pick 6 and choosing the order of arrival of horses. Take myself as an example. I was several times a one winner in trifecta, quartet and forecast (Awesome Delight-Sweet Mia at Santa Ana) and these wins can be attested by my trusted tellers Rutch Mamucod and Teresita Dayag.

Pag namuhunan ako, palaging may rumble, especially *sa* trifecta and quartet. If I would apply my style of betting in penta or super 6, *tiyak malaki ang puhunan kaya di na lang ako tataya* and that is the consensus of poor people. The money of the poor when pooled together constitute a huge amount of sales if given a chance.

Honestly speaking, what we want are for the two racing clubs to be considerate. Instead of focusing on penta and super 6, they must balance the entries with good handicapping. *Kahit konti lang ang* races *maraming* entries per race.

And *para ma*-accommodate *din kami*, this is my suggestion— limit the penta to three (3) and super 6 to one (1) per race day or make one (1) trifecta and one (1) quartet with balanced entries of not less than nine (9) horses per race day.

Para to make everybody happy, including the poor people.

Thank you very much.
NILO NATIVIDAD
1262 Craig St., Sampaloc, Manila

* * *

Amiable sportsman-businessman Joey Dy, who is said to be largely responsible for the landslide win of his better half, Pasay City Rep. Connie Dy, in last May's Congressional elections, found himself helping out in Rep. Dy's various projects in the city's districts I and II.

The husband-and-wife team recently indulged themselves in overseeing livelihood projects, barangay feeding program, anti-dengue fogging operations and cleanliness campaign, among others.

No wonder, some sectors are convincing Joey this early to run for mayor in the city in 2004.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Kay Gee Em Ey 2. Security Risk 3. Rosewood 4. West Pointer
Race 2—1. Vice Free 2. Selectee 3. Spinning Bullet 4. Dangerous Beauty
Race 3—1. Charisma 2. Favorite Trick 3. All Smiles
Race 4—1. Aprey's Choice 2. Golden Prince 3. Be Happy 4. Party Princess 5. Morning Glory
Race 5—1. Bound to Be/First of All 2. Serena 3. Lyonnais 4. Tumatagining 5. Silver Rose
Race 6—1. Dixie Dancer 2. Summit Power 3. Mahdi's Gold 4. God Is Good 5. Spectacular Lady
Race 7—1. Naughty 2. Howard Huge 3. Lovely Luigi 4. Best of Ocean 5. Michael's Way
Race 8—1. Schwarzenegger/Baccarat 2. Bidang Bida 3. Umaatikabo 4. Capriole 5. Men of Honor
Race 9—1. Gold Edition 2. Family Task 3. Midnight Rose 4. Project Genesis 5. Charlemagne
Race 10—1. Snake Dancer 2. Back to Back 3. Shuttle's Magic 4. Like A Prince 5. Back to Back
Race 11—1. James Joy 2. Gold and Dollar 3. Breakaway Artist 4. Big Kahuna 5. Windy City
Race 12—1. Another Sam 2. Exchange Deal 3. Typhoon Belle 4. Silky Sullivan 5. Winter's Fury
Race 13—1. Venus 2. Reverie 3. Letshaveaparty 4. Field Master
Race 14—1. Front Page/Heavy Metal 2. Above All 3. American Beauty 4. Knows Love 5. Intunda 6. Go Johnny Go

10 YEARS AGO

MONICA Seles beat Martina Navratilova, 7-6, 6-1, to win the US Open title in New York. Seles earlier won the Australian and French Opens.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SundaySPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Indon shooters bag 1st gold

KUALA LUMPUR—Indonesia's women trap shooters won the first gold medal of the 21st SEA Games here yesterday hours before the region's biggest sporting event was due to formally open. Sarmunah, Sylvia Silimang and Supadmi gunned down 188 birds to collect the gold in the women's team trap event at the Subang Shooting Range, near Kuala Lumpur. *AFP*

■ Dayrit calls Mike Arroyo 'disgusting'
■ RP 5 nixes practice game vs Malaysians A17

SEA GAMES

No medals for Filipinos on Day 1

BY DENNIS U. EROA

KUALA LUMPUR—There was no opening-day laughter as the Philippine campaign started on a sad note at the start of the 21st Southeast Asian Games before a capacity-crowd at the impressive National Stadium in Bukit Jalil here.

RP marksman Jaime Recio takes aim during the men's trap shooting competition. AP

Despite promises of new financial incentives, lady shooter Josefina Gay Coral could only finish seventh in a field of 13 in the women's individual trap shooting competitions at the Subang Range where Indonesian Sylvia Sarmunah emerged gold medal winner.

The first-day nightmare, however, should not be a portent of things to come for the Philippine contingent bidding to improve on its fifth-place finish in the 1999 edition of the biennial Games in Brunei.

Most of the hostilities in the 32 sports calendared by the host will unfurl today with the Filipinos expected to crack the medal standing and inject hopes on their overall drive.

Coral's stint actually started Saturday morning, hours before the Games kicked off with lavish opening ceremonies attended by the king of Malaysia and Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad.

The crowd rose in unison as the competing countries marched inside the Stadium, also the venue of the 1998 Commonwealth Games but the biggest cheers were reserved to a 25-minute show titled Human Formation composed of 1,400 dancers and three popular singers.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, who unveiled new financial packages for the athletes, paraded with the athletes and former Asia's Queen of Sprints Lydia de Vega-Mercado joined other SEA Games greats in the torch parade.

Indonesia and Malaysia each had two golds, while defending overall champion Thailand also had a slow start with a silver. The other Indonesian gold medal came in women's team trap competitions, while the Malaysians, who are determined to snatch the overall crown, bagged the gold in the men's artistic gymnastics and equestrian individual endurance.

The men's artistic teams of Roel Ramirez, Rico Ramirez, Brydon Sy, and Al Ramirez met the same fate as Coral but their counterparts in the distaff side would try to make up for lost opportunity today when a big bulk of the Philippine delegation vie in 19 disciplines.

Celso Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olym-

FILIPINOS/ A17

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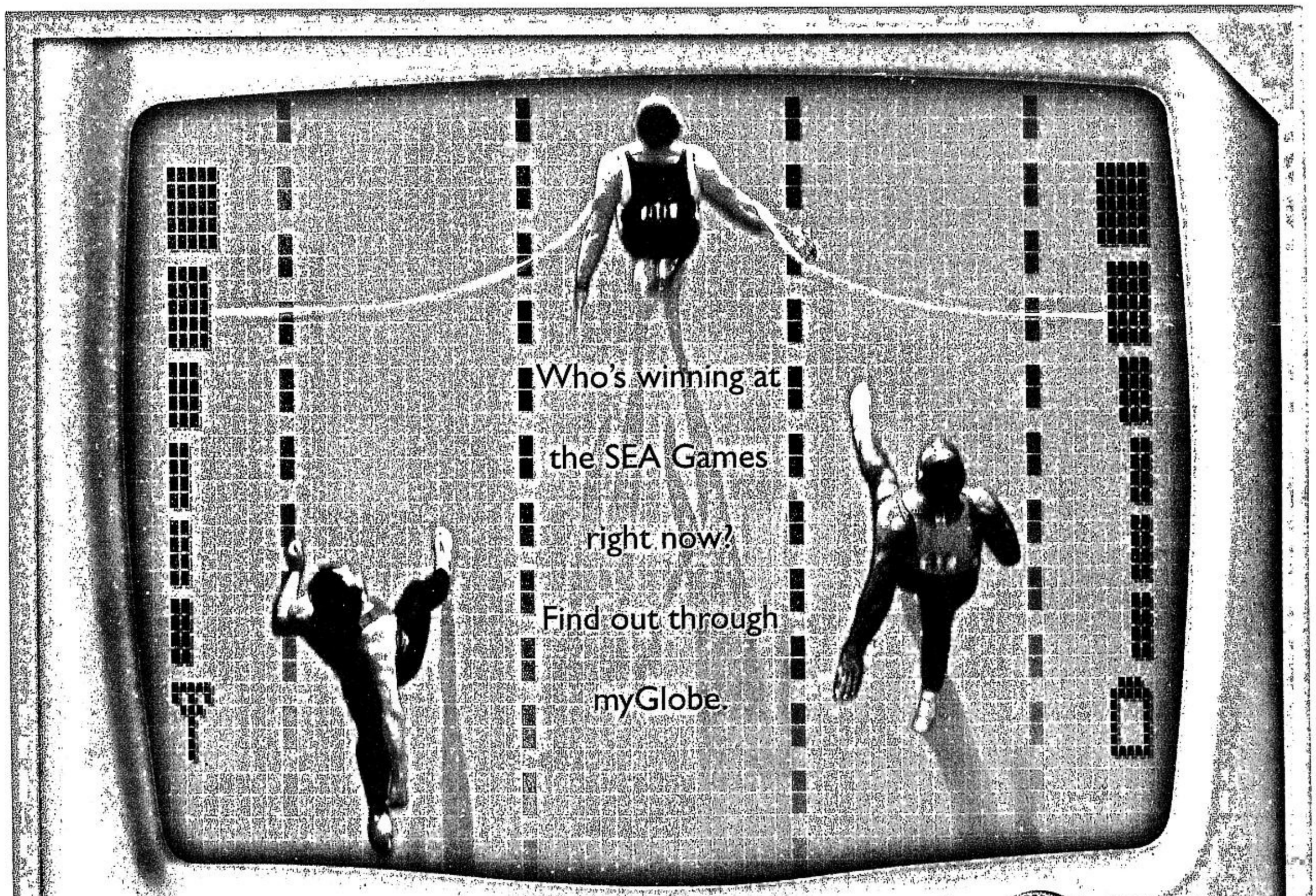
KUALA LUMPUR 2001

MEDAL TALLY

(As of 7p. m.)

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Indonesia	2	1	1
Malaysia	2	1	0
Thailand	0	1	0
Singapore	0	1	0
Vietnam	0	0	2
Myanmar	0	0	1
Philippines	0	0	0
Brunei	0	0	0
Laos	0	0	0
Cambodia	0	0	0



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- 'Judge' slain by ex-con neighbor A20
- Store owner beaten to death by 2 A20

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Church people join protest vs dumpsite

BY ROMULO O. PONTE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

ABOUT 500 Catholic Church people, laymen and cause-oriented group members will stage a prayer-rally on Monday to oppose any attempt to turn Rodriguez town (Montalban) in Rizal into a dumpsite for Metro Manila garbage, according to protest organizers.

"We will not allow it, we will set up barricades," Rodriguez residents said during a "people consultation" initiated by the Protect-Montalban environmental group last Friday.

Nanay Adeling Lustre, Protect-Montalban secretary general, expressed surprise that Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo had

CHURCH/ A20

Has anyone seen Buddy?

BY JEROME ANING

WHERE is taxi driver Librado Regalado?

Members of Regalado's family approached the INQUIRER to ask for help in locating him because they said policemen investigating the case have run out of leads.

The 41-year-old Regalado, or Buddy, left the taxi-shuttle service terminal at SM City North Edsa in Quezon City around 2:30 p.m. on Aug. 18, according to his family. A resident of Niugan, Angat, Bulacan, he had been plying the SM City-Bulacan route for more than a year.

Buddy was last seen wearing a white shirt and blue denim pants. He was on board a metallic silver Kia Besta van (WMY-685). The van was found abandoned on Piy Margal Street in Sampaloc, Manila three hours after Buddy was last seen. An unidentified man had left it there, police said.

Around 4:45 p.m. of Aug. 18, a fellow driver saw Buddy at their terminal in Pulilan, Bulacan. The driver said he clearly saw four passengers on board the Besta, but he wondered why Buddy told him he was driving only one passenger to Meycauayan.

It was the last time anyone ever saw Buddy alive.

Investigators said one of Buddy's passengers resembled the man who abandoned the van in Sampaloc.

The side of the van was heavily dented and the right headlight was smashed, indicating a collision, investigators said.

HAS ANYONE/ A20

REGALADO

JIMENEZ

MJ, sexy starlet swap charges

BY LEAH SALTERIO

REP. MARK Jimenez of the 6th District of Manila is planning to sue sexy starlet Lara Morena for accusing him of sexual harassment.

Morena complained that Jimenez harassed her sexually on Aug. 30 while they were at Garden Café at Edsa Plaza Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

She accused the controversial councilor of "forcing his hand inside my pants from behind" while they were in the coffee shop.

But a witness said this could not have happened because the starlet was wearing "a tight-fitting jeans with a belt." Besides, the coffee shop was "well-lighted," the witness added.

Jimenez is facing extradition to the United States for a string of cases, including illegal campaign contributions and mail fraud.

A spokesperson of Jimenez yesterday told the INQUIRER that the busi-

MJ, SEX/ A20

MORENA

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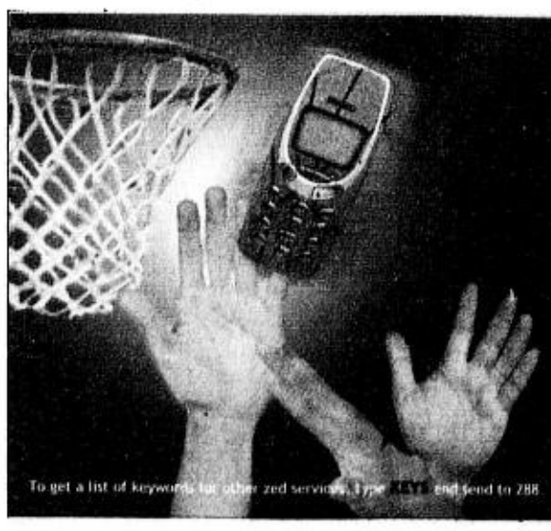

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Taking pride in a humble job

BY MARICRIS IRENE V. TAMOLANG

TALES OF THE CITY

MANNY Lito Roca has a humble job not many people would want.

With a sense of humor, a light heart and easy ways, Roca tends to customers at McDonald's on J.P. Rizal in Makati near the Sta. Ana racetracks. Always courteous and efficient, Roca has been serving people with a smile for the past five years.

At 25, Roca is raring to become a branch manager soon.

Roca has lived a hard life. His childhood was especially harsh.

Growing up, he said, was a constant struggle against poverty. His close relationship with God and service to the Church since he was 17 kept him whole, he said.

"My two sisters married at a young age," he said. "The youngest in the brood helps my mother sell vegetables in the market. My parents have their own crosses to bear."

The eldest of four children, Roca is the only one who has a job now.

6 in 1 room

He said his family has been making native cakes as far back as he can remember. During Christmas, his family sells *puto bumbong* and other native cakes in Sta. Ana. Each member of the family helps out. No one is spared, not even Roca with his job. He said he still continues to carry out the family tradition of selling cakes, which he has been doing since he was 10 years old.

"I still help in making native cakes in December," he said. "I started in the business when I was in Grade 4."

His mother commutes daily from the family residence in Taytay, Rizal to her small stall at the Paco wet market in Manila.

His father makes and sells rice cakes. He makes just enough money to keep the family going.

Roca took a two-year course in computer programming at the Philippine Christian University in Manila. But hard times forced him to stop schooling.

He recalls how financial problems gripped his family in the past. Since they couldn't afford a house of their own, they squeezed themselves—all six of them—in a rented room in Paco, Manila.

The entire family heaved a sigh of relief when they transferred to what they call their real home in Taytay. The family was able to become a beneficiary of the government's socialized housing program in 1997.

Broader horizon

He said his work at the fast-food chain broadened his horizon. He admitted that it was at work where he got a good grasp of English. His ways in dealing with other people also became refined.

His job could be exhausting, and when it becomes so, he never fails to make use of the magic element, which he said always eases the burden.

"When I see my fellow workers stressed out, I would crack a joke to loosen them up," he said in Filipino.

"Don't be too serious at work," he added. "It makes you look older. Just think of your loved ones and always smile."

There are also times when he couldn't help but compare his life to a toy robot.

"You go home and eat your dinner. You sleep and in the morning you get up again for work. When closing time comes, you'll go through the same process again, just like a toy, a robot."

It's never easy, but it's the life he has learned to embrace.

"My job is my way of life," he said.

Satisfaction

And he won't trade his job for anything, he added.

Roca started out as a trainee in 1995 and went through a three-day course at the McDonald's branch in Glorietta, Makati.

On his first day, he worked the lobby, the fries station and the counter—the three stations where all newly hired crewmembers are assigned to for the first six months.

The next day, he learned how to maintain cleanliness in the lobby as well as the right way to tend to customers.

Day Three was when he proved his worth to the burger chain.

For the next six months, he tended the counter and, when he became a regular crewmember a year later, he became a trainer.

"I'm satisfied with my life," Roca said. "I am proud to be a crewmember in McDonald's. Of course, I also look forward to a better future, but there is nothing more I ask of the present."

ROCA

Atienza heads league of Metro mayors

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza was elected as the new president of the Metro Manila Mayors League during the body's meeting on Friday at the Pasay City Hall.

Elected with Atienza were Valenzuela City Mayor Bobit Carlos, vice president; Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando, secretary; Pasig City Mayor Soledad Fernando, treasurer; and Pasay City Mayor Peewee Trinidad as spokesman.

"I am honored by your confidence in me and I accept this challenge to serve with humility," Atienza said upon election. "I hope that you could accord to me the support that you have given my predecessor, former Marikina City Mayor Bayani Fernando."

The league agreed to promote closer working relations among its members as well as with the other government agencies.

TUP receives Alay award

THE ALAY Lakad Foundation awarded the Technological University of the Philippines with a P30,000 emergency educational assistance for being the school with the biggest delegation in last year's Alay Lakad para sa Kabataan Day.

A committee selected 30 students who will each receive P1,000.

Alaky Lakad Foundation executive director Arnold Cesar Romero awarded the P30,000 in July.

BIRTHDAY PROCESSION ERIK ARAZAS

A procession of images of the Blessed Virgin Mary ride was held in the Pasig River to celebrate her birthday yesterday. Today, another fluvial Marian procession will take place in the Pasig.

'Judge' slain by ex-con neighbor

BY JEROME ANING

A MAN nicknamed "Judge" was stabbed to death by his neighbor, an ex-convict, for allegedly staring lewdly at the latter's wife in Sta. Cruz, Manila Friday night.

Jaime "Judge" Nieto, 47, married and a resident of Sta. Cruz, suffered a deep stab wound in the right side of the torso. He later died in a hospital.

PO3 Joey de Ocampo said the stabbing took place after house painter Alfredo "Bikong" Flores, 40, quarreled with his live-in partner Winnie right in the middle of the railroad tracks near Laguna Street around 9:45 p.m.

Flores, a resident also of Sta. Cruz, was recently released from the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City after serving a prison term, PO3 De Ocampo said.

The couple's shouting match attracted the attention of neighbors, including Nieto, who was home watching horse racing on cable television.

Flores reportedly became very mad after he noticed "Judge" staring at his wife from Nieto's house.

The investigator said Flores approached Nieto's house, and Nieto turned back his attention to the TV.

Flores pretended he was also watching the races on Nieto's TV. But seconds later, Flores suddenly pulled out a dagger and lunged at Nieto.

Though wounded, "Judge" was able to run out of the house, screaming for help. A neighbor, Renato Patungan, brought him to the nearby Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

Nieto's lung was punctured and he died of internal bleeding and other complications around 2:25 a.m. yesterday. His body was taken to the Sanctuary Funeral Homes.

Flores was last seen dragging his wife away from the scene. Police failed to find them at home.

Flores is facing a murder charge.

Store owner beaten to death by 2

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

STORE owner Floro P. Bactung, 30, did not have a prayer when two unidentified men ganged up on him and stabbed him dead before dawn yesterday in Quezon City.

Police are still trying to find out what led the two men to kill Bactung, of Tawid Sapa, Phase II, Zone 4, Barangay Kaligayahan, Quezon City, said SPO1 Cresenciano Bajao, of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit.

The culprits left Bactung to die in a vacant lot near the gate of Greenfield I Subdivision along Quirino Highway, Quezon City, Bajao said.

Residents living near the vacant lot heard the two men arguing heatedly with Bactung about 2 a.m. yesterday, he said.

The quarrel quickly deteriorated into a fistfight and the two men ganged up on Bactung.

"They at first beat him up with a piece of wood," Bajao said. "After they overpowered him, they stabbed him repeatedly."

After Bactung's attackers fled, concerned residents took the victim to the Cruz Dalida Maternity Clinic where he was pronounced dead at 2:30 a.m., Bajao said.

Bactung's body was transferred to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy, he added.

Has anyone seen . . .

(From page A19)

There were bloodstains and blood splotches all over the dashboard and the front windows, Buddy's relatives said.

Buddy's cell phone was missing but it was later traced to a Sampaloc resident. Police said the Sampaloc resident is not connected to Buddy's disappearance and could have found the unit in the van after the vehicle was abandoned.

It was the unidentified resident who told police where the van had been abandoned. The van was taken to the Western Police District headquarters on United Nations Avenue in Ermita.

Regalado's family sought the help of the National Bureau of Investigation and of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the police.

Investigators think Regalado was a victim of a robbery or attempted car theft and might be dead already.

But Buddy's relatives said they are convinced he is still alive. They have searched hospitals and funeral parlors in Metro Manila and Bulacan and did not find him, they said.

Buddy used to tell his wife Divine that if someone tried to steal his van, he would ram the vehicle into a wall to stop the suspect.

Buddy and Divine have a 2-year-old daughter. Divine prematurely gave birth to a boy a few days after Buddy disappeared.

Buddy's brother Edgardo, 46, described him as a "kind, responsible, helpful, friendly and family-oriented man" who never has any enemies and is not involved in any illegal activity.

Buddy was an employee of Marcoper in Marinduque for 17 years until the mining firm shut down. He was a contract worker in Angola and Saudi Arabia for the next two years.

When he returned to the Philippines, he bought the van and started a shuttle service.

Readers who may have information that can help solve Librado Regalado's disappearance may call the NBI's anti-crime division at 523-3265 and the CIDG at 722-0625.

THE van was found abandoned in Sampaloc, Manila.

MJ, sex starlet . . .

(From page A19)

nessman-politician has consulted his lawyers on the charges to be filed against Morena.

Morena said Jimenez had invited her, through movie columnist Jojo Gabinete, to perform at the birthday party of Mandaluyong Rep. Neptali Gonzales III in the Edsa Plaza hotel ballroom on the night of Aug. 30.

Also a performer at the party was Allona, who came with her husband Gerald Lauron.

"Since it was a last-minute invitation, I had to look for another singer," Gabinete said. "It was Lara who recommended Allona to me."

However, there was a communication problem when they arrived in the hotel, Gabinete said.

"I didn't know that MJ (Jimenez) wanted the singers to go straight to the party and meet him later at the coffee shop where he would pay them," Gabinete explained. "We waited for him first in the coffee shop before proceeding to the ballroom."

Also in the group was actress-talent manager Jessica Rodriguez. Jimenez was one of the principal sponsors at Rodriguez's wedding to decathlon athlete David Bunevacz last December.

Gabinete said the singers were supposed to be Jimenez's "birthday gift" for Gonzales. But since Jimenez arrived late, the singers were no longer able to perform at the party, he said.

"But he still paid them their talent fees," Gabinete added. "In fact, they were supposed to receive only P15,000 each. But MJ gave them a check for P20,000 each."

The spokesperson of Jimenez said Morena joined the councilor's table as soon as he arrived around 10 p.m. From the coffee shop, the group moved to the lobby lounge so they could listen to the lounge singer.

Gabinete said that at the lobby, Morena sat on the lap of Jimenez.

But Morena claimed it was Jimenez who attempted to make a pass at her.

"He touched my buttocks and the next thing I knew, he was forcing his hand inside my pants from behind," she said.

Morena said she was aware of Jimenez's reputation with women. "I know he's 'bad' when it comes to women," she said. "I was not the one who gave him the motive. His hand was just so fast."

Another woman in the group, however, told the Inquirer there was no way Jimenez could have forced his hand into Morena's pants because the starlet was wearing tight-fitting jeans with a belt.

"The coffee shop was well-lighted," said the witness. "Why would MJ even attempt to do that?"

Gabinete said Morena was even teasing Jimenez that they could check into the hotel that night, but the councilor ignored the joke.

Morena is separated from her husband, Fausti Tambunting. They have two children.

Gabinete said that when Morena received her check, she made another remark to Jimenez. "She said she really needed to work so she would have the money to pay for a Toyota RAV 4 vehicle," Gabinete said.

"That's not true," Morena said. "I'm already driving a Mercedes Benz, why will I need an RAV 4?"

She claimed that the Edsa Plaza Hotel encounter was the first time she met Jimenez.

"I didn't even know what he looked like," she said. "When we were already talking, I even had to ask the person beside me who he was."

The starlet, however, seems unruffled by Jimenez's plan to sue her.

"I know he has the money to pay lawyers, writers and witnesses," she told the Inquirer. "But I am not afraid of him. I am going to face him anywhere. I don't have to pay people. I'm only telling the truth, nothing more, nothing less.".

Church people join protest . . .

(From page A19)

made a deal with the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) without consulting the town's residents.

"We will not allow Montalban to become a garbage dump," Lustre declared. "If Mayor (Cuerpo) allows it, we, the residents, will not."

Dencio Ramos, Protect-Montalban chair, said: "Mayor (Cuerpo) was lying when he said this (dump) would give Montalban opportunities to progress economically. Experience and reality tell us that dumps do not promote the socio-economic life of residents, or they would not have closed the landfills in San Mateo and in Carmona, Cavite."

Edwin Alog, regional coordinator of the Southern Tagalog Environmental Action Movement (Steam) said: "A landfill is not the answer to the garbage problem. It is, in fact, causing additional problems to the people and the environment.

"The government of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should design a more appropriate and lasting solution to the garbage problem," Alog added. "There should be a well-prepared plan for the entire economy, starting from the manufacturers up to the consumers.

"The people have spoken. It is clear that they are opposed to the proposed plan to establish a landfill in Montalban or in any other parts of Southern Tagalog," Alog said.

Cuerpo on Friday explained that he was thinking of the development of Rodriguez when he decided to accommodate the garbage in his area.

The New People's Army reportedly opposed any move to dump Metro Manila's garbage in Rizal province and had placed Cuerpo on its hit list.

"I hope they would understand that what I'm doing is for the benefit of the municipality and my constituents," Cuerpo had said.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Behn, Manoling react to Anding statements

'Ridiculous,' says Cervantes; 'I did not overturn board decision,' says Morato

BY LEAH SALTERIO

FILM and stage director Behn Cervantes has denied orchestrating a campaign against Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) chair Alejandro "Anding" Roces.

In the Entertainment Q&A last Tuesday, Roces told the INQUIRER that Cervantes was behind a "synchronized" move against his leadership in the board of censors.

"My first reaction was to laugh," said Cervantes, who is also a member of the board. "It was ridiculous."

Roces said in the Q&A it was Cervantes who prompted tabloid writers to call him "*Lolo* Anding."

"But I only have two friends in the press, Nestor Torre and Norma Japitana," Cervantes said. "I never mentioned Anding to them.

"I do not exert any influence over members of the press and I have not tried to influence any one in any way."

Cervantes said he accepted the position as MTRCB member to work with the board, not against the board.

"I am a member of the board and I work only for its welfare," he said. "There are many more important things to do at this point. To orchestrate a campaign against him is farthest from my mind. I don't know what he's talking about."

In the same interview, Roces said former MTRCB chair Manoling Morato once tried to overturn the decision of the board, but the Supreme Court told him he could not.

In a letter faxed to the INQUIRER, Morato explained it was not a board decision but an opinion from the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice sought by board member Carmen "Menchu" Aquino Sarmiento.

Morato said Sarmiento approved the showing of the late Stanley Kubrick's "Clockwork Orange," which Morato, as MTRCB chief, considered pornographic. He said he refused to affirm the decision of the review committee and did not want to give the movie a permit for public exhibition.

"But I did not overturn the decision of the three-member review committee which screened the movie, chaired by Menchu," Morato wrote. "What I requested the committee members to do was to elevate the movie to the Malacañang appeals committee to settle our differences once and for all."

He said that when he was still MTRCB chair, he knew he could not overturn a decision of the review committee.

"The movie is pornographic from beginning to end," Morato said, referring to "Clockwork Orange."

"Sex organs and breast exposure float all over the film footage that had I opted to sanitize, only a trailer would be left of the movie if we were to follow existing Philippine laws," he said.

Matching a good guest with the right host

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE CINEMA One movie channel has come up with a number of show biz-related programs that supplement and provide a break from its regular film programming.

One of its more substantial shows is "Persona," a one-on-one encounter with a popular and interesting entertainment personality. Last week, we caught "Persona's" focus on **Gloria Diaz**.

Gloria was a good choice as subject of the in-depth interview show because she has had a varied show biz career, is a good talker, and is not shy about sharing her thoughts on a number of potentially delicate topics, including her colorful personal life.

Unfortunately, the program made the mistake of matching Gloria up with a pretty but callow episode host, **Janet McBride**. The girl did her best, but she was clearly out of her depth and didn't do justice to the many possibilities for revealing talk that she could have explored with the candid and experienced likes of Gloria.

If the interviewer had been older and more personally knowledgeable about Gloria's life and career, the show would have been much better. As it was, Gloria politely tempered her patter so that Janet could catch up, but the result was a not very effective show.

Janet was provided with the "right" questions, but they weren't much help because she didn't know enough about Gloria to ask follow-up questions, which are often more interesting than initial, standard queries.

We trust that, in future, "Persona" will choose its episode hosts with greater care and awareness of the importance of matching a good guest with the right host.

Janet may have been tapped to act as host in order to make the show more accessible to young viewers, but the gambit didn't pan out, because the quality of the interview itself was affected. Candid, colorful personalities like Gloria Diaz deserve better handling and showcasing than what she got on last week's "Persona."

Feedback

TED Unido called from Bacood to react to our recent piece, on "Sis" and the De Belen sisters' excessively hectic and even giddy hosting style on the new show. He agreed with the observation but pointed out that **Janice** and **Gelli** aren't the only hosts guilty of this on the tube.

He said that the hosts of morning shows like "Alas Singko Y Medya" and "Unang Hirit" also confuse excessive energy with sprightly hosting. They push too hard to keep their shows lively, and should relax and opt for a more natural style.

He also noted that TV hosts tend to be "*masyadong palagay*" on their shows—they've become too comfortable on-camera and need to be reminded that they're doing their shows not for themselves, but for their viewers.

In his opinion, the morning show hosts who have the right, balanced approach are the on-camera talents on "Breakfast."

TV treats

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 12 at 7:15 p.m. on Star Movies, "Newsbreak" stars **Michael Rooker**, **Judge Reinhold** and **Robert Culp**, and is about a reckless reporter whose investigation could ruin his relationship with his father, as well as the careers of a number of important politicians.

Thursday, Sept. 13 at 8 p.m. on Viva Cinema, "Bituing Walang Nining" topbills **Sharon Cuneta**, **Cherie Gil** and **Christopher de Leon**.

At 11:15 p.m. on Star Movies, "Invasion of the Body Snatchers." In this remake of the cult sci-fi flick, a health inspector stands virtually alone that the fight against microorganisms that take over human bodies, obliterating all traces of personality and individuality. Stars include **Donald Sutherland**, **Brooke Adams** and **Jeff Goldblum**.

Antoinette trying to make it in US recording

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

SINCE young actress **Antoinette Taus** left for the United States last March, she and show biz boyfriend **Dingdong Dantes** had to content themselves with a long distance love affair.

They spend a fortune on phone bills as they call each other three times a day and exchange countless text messages.

"I expected the worse after I left, but it was not as bad as I thought," Antoinette grants. "It's really hard to be away from each other. I have yet to meet a couple whose long distance relationship works.

"I just know we are strong enough to handle this temporary separation. If it's meant to be, it's meant to be. If ever things go bad, we will always be friends because we started as friends."

When Antoinette announced she would go to the US, she was hounded by intrigues even before she could leave. Talk said she was pregnant and would get an abortion in the US.

"I expected those intrigues. But I took them all in stride. My mom was the only one who was upset. She was the one who was really affected because she was concerned about me."

Antoinette gave up her rising show biz career to try her luck in the US. She also took a leave of absence from the Ateneo de Manila University, where she is supposed to be a Political Science senior.

She said going to the US was not a hasty decision.

"I told GMA 7 about it a year before I left. It's a sacrifice I had to make. I want to do this while I'm still young."

She also considers her US trip to be a breather. "It's my first long break since I started in show biz when I was only 11," she says. "In the States, I am able to do anything I want. I have more time for myself without worrying about the fans."

But after being away for four months, Antoinette is back, albeit only temporarily. GMA 7 tapped her to star in a four-episode series of the drama anthology "Larawan," for airing this month.

"I wasn't supposed to return this early, but GMA 7 wanted me to do 'Larawan' so I said yes," Antoinette says. "They sponsored my air ticket so I could tape the series. But I won't be here anymore when the episodes start airing."

Antoinette is mum about any career breaks in the US, but she has a talent manager who will represent her.

"Nothing is sure, anything can happen," she says. "I want to start with recording. So far, things are looking good. I just want to take things as they come.

"I didn't go there thinking everything will be great right away. I took the risk. I made this decision and sacrifice. I'm ready for disappointments."

Hitmaker strikes again

YOU certainly are familiar with the hits he wrote, like "Hataw Na" and "Sa Yahweh," two dance singles popularized by **Gary Valenciano**. But what many people probably don't know is that prolific composer and hitmaker **Jungee Marcelo** started out as a gospel singer.

Jungee was one of the original members of the Papuri Music Ministry, with **Reuben Laurente** of The Company and **Edward Granadosin** of Three of a Kind. Up to this day, Jungee still heads the gospel ministry group.

A business administration graduate from the Pierce College in Los Angeles, Jungee was named after the courageous man from the Bible, Gideon. Jungee got his nickname since he is his dad's junior.

He took his music talent after his mom, **Celia Herrera**, who was a pianist and romanticist composer.

Jungee looks up to composer **George Canseco**, but he says it is God who is his music master. "*Siya ang may hawak ng patpat* every time I have to compose a song."

MARCELO. He doesn't get tired of writing songs.

He gets his inspiration from his wife, **Anna** (daughter of former comedian **Jerry Pons**), who also gives him moral support. They have been married for four years and he composed the song "There'll You'll Be" for Anna.

"After 'Sa Yahweh' and 'Hataw Na,' *parang naging* song factory *na ko,*" he says. "There are so many artists who want me to compose for them."

To date, Jungee has written songs for recording artists such as **Regine Velasquez**, **Sharon Cuneta**, **Pops Fernandez**, **Side A**, **Ogie Alcasid** and **Jolina Magdangal**. He even wrote a song, "Please Don't Just Say Maybe," for multi-awarded singer-composer **Jose Mari Chan**, and it is included in the latter's forthcoming album.

"I take it as a challenge when I have to come up with a lot of songs," Jungee says. "But I don't get tired of writing songs. I try to surpass every good composition. It helps that you're always on your toes."

Jungee has also reaped awards for his compositions. In last year's Katha Awards alone, he snagged four trophies, including Song of the Year for "Bukas na Lang Sana," interpreted by **Lloyd Umali**. The Tagalog ballad also won best pop song.

"We Thang," performed by **Jaya**, won best R&B song. It was included as a cut in Jaya's "Honesty" album.

"Sa Piling Mo," recorded by **Terry Javier**, was adjudged best gospel song, the same accolade won by "Sa Yahweh" in 1999.

TAUS. Ready for disappointments.

As a composer, Jungee also tries his luck in song competitions. Last year, his song, "Super Pinoy," interpreted by **Jolina Magdangal**, won two major awards in the "Himig Handog" contest launched by ABS-CBN. For both the Youth Choice Award and the OFW Award, Jungee took home a total cash prize of P400,000.

This year, he composed an alternative tune, "K Naman," for "Jam Himig Handog sa Makabagong Kabataan." The song will be interpreted by **Noel Cabangon** and the Tropang Papuri.

"I'm not afraid of losing in competitions," Jungee allows. "In the Asia Songfest 2000, **Carol Banawa** interpreted my original entry, 'Make It Through,' but it was the Indonesian song which won. That inspired me to do even better the next time around."

Jungee is optimistic that during the Jam finals on Oct. 20, his alternative song can duplicate his winning feat last year.

J Lo, other Latin artists to attend Latin Grammys live on E! Philippines

SINGER-ACTRESS and Grammy nominee Jennifer Lopez, with Grammy and Latin Grammy winner Celia Cruz and actor Lou Diamond Philipps will be the presentors in the 2001 Latin Grammys.

Now on its second year, the prestigious event will be aired live on E! Philippines from Los Angeles, California, this Wednesday, Sept. 12, 9 to 11 p.m., with a replay at 8 p.m.

The ceremony which will originate from the Forum in Los Angeles, will boast awards in 38 categories, covering many genres and sub-genres of Latin music and will feature performances from some of the genre's biggest artists.

Columbian Latin rock newcomer Juanes heads the list of nominees, with six citations including album of the year, best rock solo album and best new artist.

Internationally renowned Spanish pop artist Alejandro Sanz received five nominations, including the coveted record of the year and song of the year.

Other multiple nominees include Spanish rock group Aterciopelados, Brazilian legend Gilberto Gil, Fito Paez and Caetano Veloso, who each earned three nominations.

Christina Aguilera, Vicente Amigo, Placido Domingo and Paulina Rubio received two nominations each.

Ricky Martin, Celia Cruz, Eddie Palmieri and Thalia earned one nomination each.

The creative range of the nominations is best represented in the record of the year category, where pop stars Christina Aguilera and Alejandro Sanz challenge the rock material of Juanes, Aterciopelados and Gilberto Gil.

In order to represent the diversity of Latin music, the best rap/hip-hop album category was added this year. Nominees include DJ Kun, Planet Hemp and 7 Notas 7 Colores.

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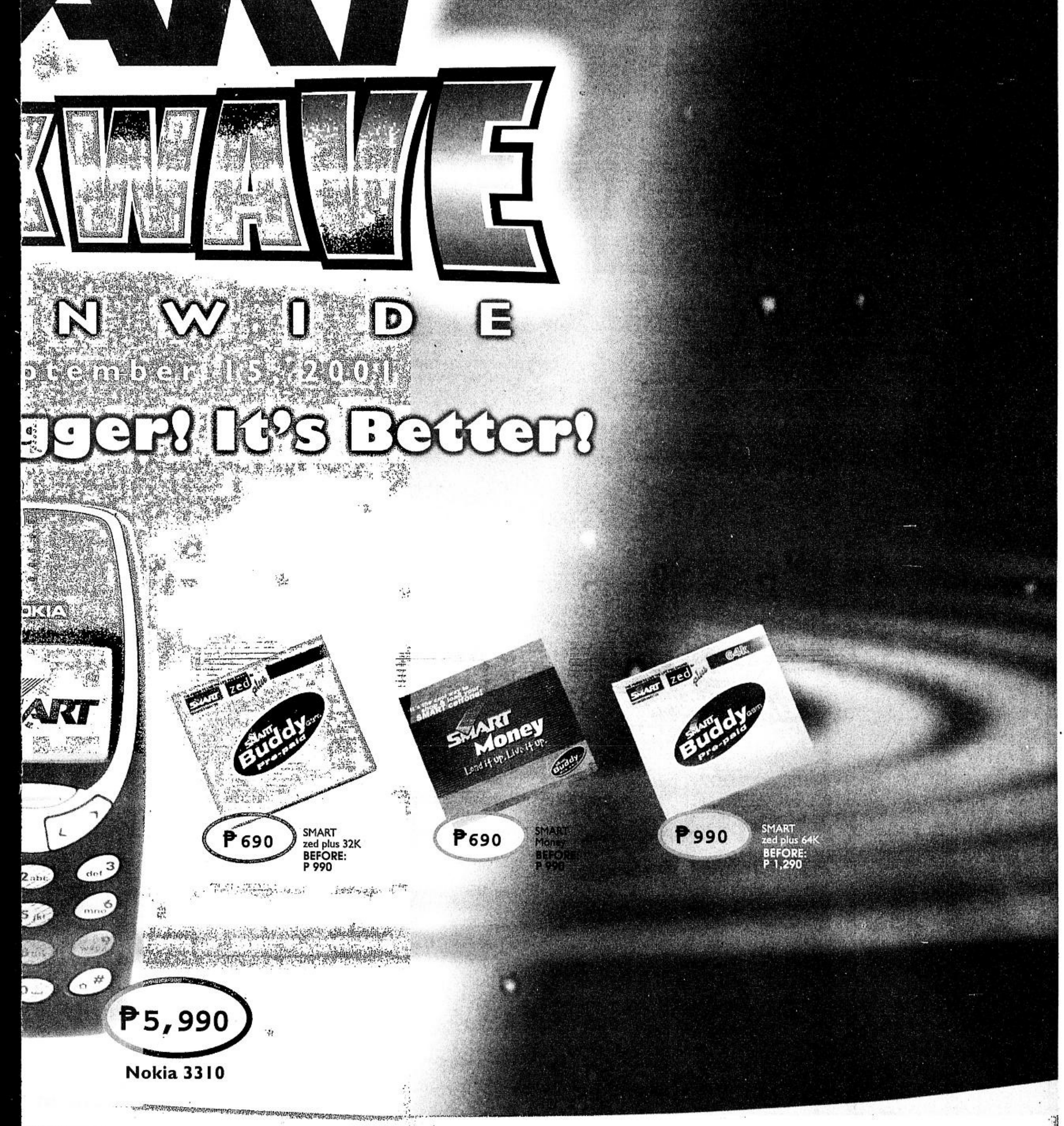

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6	SEX MEDUSA

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LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3	RESERVE

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	CROCODILE 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS)	A.I

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
2 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DOLBY)	A.I.
4	RUSH HOUR 2

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
3 (DTS)	A.I.
4	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	CATS & DOGS
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	CROCODILE 2
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4 (DTS)	A.I.

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS)	A.I.
4	CRAZY / BEAUTIFUL
5	SEX MEDUSA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	A.I.
3	RUSH HOUR 2

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	A.I.

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	SHREK
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANINN
3	PARU PARONG LIGAW

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	A.I.
3	BROTHERHOOD

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2365

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SEX MEDUSA
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	HUWAD NA HAYOP

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	DUDURUGIN KO . . .
2	A.I.
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY)	TEENAGE DIARY
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	BROTHERHOOD
4 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2

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(THX) A.I.	1 A.I.
2 A.I.	2 RUSH HOUR 2
3 CROCODILE 2	3 SHREK
4 SHREK	4 A.I.
5 RUSH HOUR 2	5 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6 RUSH HOUR 2	6 RUSH HOUR 2
7 MOULIN ROUGE	7 CROCODILE 2
8 CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL	
9 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN	
10 A.I.	

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31	IMUS (046) 471-8188
1 RESERVED FOR PRIVATE EVENT	1 RUSH HOUR 2
2 A.I.	2 CROCODILE 2
3 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN	3 SHREK
4 A.I.	4 A.I.
5 RUSH HOUR 2	5 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6 CROCODILE 2	6 PAREHAS ANG LABAN
7 RUSH HOUR 2	
8 SHREK	

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453	SOON TO OPEN
1 SHREK	METRO EAST
2 PLANET OF THE APES	SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
3 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN	ILOILO
4 BROTHERHOOD	THX · dts · SDDS · DOLBY · DOLBY STEREO
5 ANIMAL	START MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.
6 VENUS	

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	CROCODILE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	KASIBULAN/ TURN ON
ODEON	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ODEON-2	RUSH HOUR 2
ROBEN	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	WOMAN ON TOP/ VALENTINE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	TOMB RAIDERS / GET CARTER
QUEZON-1	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
REMAR	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
REMAR-2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
B	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CINEMA-2	PLANET OF THE APES
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
CINEMA-3	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A.I.
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-6	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-7	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-8	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	A.I.
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	A.I.
CINEMA-12	CROCODILE 2
CINEMA-14	SHREK
CINEMA-15	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CINEMA-3	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CINEMA-4	SHREK
CINEMA-5	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-6	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	NAKALIMOT SA PAG-IBIG
CINEMA-2	EVANGELINE KATORSE
CINEMA-4	OUTRAGE

CHAN

Jose Mari Chan holds one-night concert

SPANNING almost three decades of bringing timeless music to his audience, singer-songwriter Jose Mari Chan has proven to be an extremely sensitive artist. Writing and singing songs for and from the heart has been his expertise. It's no wonder, he manages to touch the sentiments of music enthusiasts, both young and old.

Who would ever forget his hits like "Tell Me Your Name," "Can We Just Stop and Talk Awhile?," "Beautiful Girl," "Can't We Start Over Again?"

There are also his famous duets like "Please Be Careful With My Heart" with Regine Velasquez, "My Girl, My Woman, My Friend" with Janet Basco, "Is She Thinking About Me" with Christine Bersola and the all-time favorite holiday tune, "Christmas in Our Hearts," which he recorded with his daughter Liza.

Chan's "Constant Change" album likewise earned a Diamond Record Award for having sold 500,000 copies.

His other subsequent releases—"Thank You, Love" and "Souvenirs"—were also given multi-platinum awards.

Once again, the all-time hitmaker shares the songs he has written and recorded in a one-night concert, "The Best of Jose Mari Chan, Part 2," Sept. 14, 9 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of Westin Philippine Plaza.

Tickets are now available at all Ticket-world outlets, major National Bookstore branches (891-5610) and at Maxi-Media office (813-8999 /893-7737).

"The Best of Jose Mari Chan, Part 2" is a special production of Maxi-Media International.

Comedy series

TESSIE Tomas celebrates her 20th year in show biz with a major show featuring all her memorable characters, plus some new ones.

The comedy series is set Oct. 12, 13, 26 and 27, 9 p.m. at the Music Museum.

"Teysi at Twenti" is a production of Artist House Inc. and will be directed by Floy Quintos, with Jon Santos, John Lapus and Boy Abunda as special guests.

For ticket inquiries, call Ticketworld at 891-5610, Artist House at 815-1953/ 817-4660 or Music Museum at 721-0635/ 721-6726.

TOMAS

THE FILM THAT SHOOK THE WORLD IS HERE !
NOW SHOWING in Manila, Cebu & Iloilo
MTRCB RATING PG – 13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
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JOURNEY TO A WORLD WHERE ROBOTS DREAMS AND DESIRE
A.I.
A STEVEN SPIELBERG FILM
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

WARNER BROS. PICTURES and DREAMWORKS PICTURES Present
A STANLEY KUBRICK Production A Film By STEVEN SPIELBERG A.I. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE HALEY JOEL OSMENT JUDE LAW FRANCES O'CONNOR
BRENDAN GLEESON and WILLIAM HURT Robot Characters Designed By STAN WINSTON STUDIO Special Visual Effects & Animation By INDUSTRIAL LIGHT & MAGIC
Costume Designer BOB RINGWOOD Original Motion Picture Theme JEANINE SALLA Music By JOHN WILLIAMS Film Editor MICHAEL KAHN, A.C.E. Production Designer RICK CARTER
Director of Photography JANUSZ KAMINSKI, A.S.C. Executive Producers JAN HARLAN WALTER F. PARKES Suggested By STEVEN SPIELBERG Based on a Screen Story By IAN WATSON
Based on the Short Story By BRIAN ALDISS Produced By KATHLEEN KENNEDY STEVEN SPIELBERG BONNIE CURTIS
Directed By STEVEN SPIELBERG
DREAMWORKS PICTURES
AOL Keyword: A.I. www.Aimovie.com
MAGIC 89.9 | 99.5 RHYTHM | 88.3 | 92.3 | SMART

Movie premiere

JOEY@92.3 FM unleashes a downpour of blockbusters and great music.

Joey premieres "A Knight's Tale," Sept. 10 at the Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV.

The film stars Hollywood heartthrob Heath Ledger in a post-modern take on the medieval story, with the music of Queen as background.

The premiere is sponsored by Knorr Soupy Snacks, Estee Lauder, BPI, Powerbooks, Sweepstxt 135, Trolli Gummi Candy and Mossimo.

Experience an exciting ride back to the medieval era as Joey spruces up Glorietta Cinemas, complete with knights and horses.

For a flood of great rhythms, "Joey's Acoustic Nights" presents Calvin Millado and Bituin Escalante in a concert series every Wednesday, Sept. 12, 19 and 26 at Strumm's Makati. The duo will be joined by Acoustic Jive.

The series is sponsored by Cali, Nissan Sentra Exalta, Equitable Card Network Rewards Plus, Globe and also by Sweepstxt 135, Duty Free Philippines, Aegon Life Insurance and Shell Citibank Gold.

"Joey's Night Rhythms" hits the newest spot in town, Dish, at the Rockwell Center, Sept. 13 and 20, 9 p.m. Soulid provides the grooves in the limited Thursday night engagement, sponsored by Subaru and Cosmopolitan Philippines.

"The Mug Squad" on Friday nights hits Seattle's Best East-wood (Sept. 14), Rockwell (Sept. 21), Megamall (Sept. 28) and Greenbelt (Oct. 5), 8 p.m.

The acoustic duo of Nobel Queano and Rodel Vidal provides the soothing rhythms to the café tour.

The event is made possible by Equitable Card Net, American Express and Preview Magazine.

MTRCB RATING G General Patronage
ANNE HATHAWAY JULIE ANDREWS

SNEAK PREVIEWS TOMORROW!
Walt Disney Pictures
THE PRINCESS DIARIES
ALL AGES ADMITTED
What would you do if you discovered you were royalty? ROCK, RULE AND REIGN!
From Garry Marshall, the director of 'PRETTY WOMAN" and 'RUNAWAY BRIDE", comes a girl-empowering modern-day fairy tale transformation of an ordinary 15-year old teenager, Mia (winsome newcomer Anne Hathaway), into a graceful princess tasked to take over the reigns of a tiny European kingdom through the tutelage of her grandmother (Oscar®winner Julie Andrews of "The Sound of Music") who turns out to be the queen.
This family-friendly fun movie also stars pop singing sensation Mandy Moore in her first big screen performance and Hector Elizondo ("Pretty Woman") with soundtrack cuts from BBMak, Backstreet Boys, Aaron Carter, Hanson, Myra, 3Gs, Krystal Harris and many more. On SEPT. 19, troop to the cinemas and meet the newest member of the ruling class.

AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
NOW SHOWING!
Art Film
MTRCB RATING R Restricted | STRICTLY FOR ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

MIRACULOUS!
Xiu Xiu
THE SENT DOWN GIRL
BANNED IN PARTS OF CHINA
EXTREMELY MOVING & OUSTANDING FILM
BANNED IN CHINA
FOR POLITICAL & SEXUAL CONTENT
"Xiu Xiu: The Sent Down Girl" is a powerful love story w/c is exclusively shown at ARTFILM of Glorietta 4 cinemas. Between 1967 and 1976, nearly 8 million Chinese youths were "sent down" for specialized training to the remotest corners of the country. Before being sent down, the young and beautiful Xiu Xiu dreams of becoming a horse trainer in the wide open plains of Tibet, far away from her busy city home. Her journey begins in a training camp in the isolated plains with a solitary and mysterious man. Slowly, Xiu Xiu discovers that she is unlikely to ever see her home again without a wealthy sponsor. Her world becomes a horrifying cage, where "patrons" promise her escape in exchange for her sexual compromise. This is one girl's story and a compassionate deed that inspired one special man and everyone who hears her tale
Language: Mandarin with English subtitles
WINNER!
Jury Award, 1998 Ft. Lauderdale International Film Festival;
7 Golden Horses (The "Oscars of Taiwan")

MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
A Powerhouse Cast!
JUDE LAW RACHEL WEISZ
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ONE MAN CAN WIN THE WAR.
ENEMY AT THE GATES
united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
OPENS SEPT.12

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN - GP 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - P 13 11:50, 2:40, 5:30, 8:20, 11:00	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - P 13 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10
SHREK - GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	MOULIN ROUGE - P 13 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - P 13 10:50, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

Matinee: P80, Mon.-Fri, 11:10 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

Erratum

THE FILM review of "A Knight's Tale" which came out in the Entertainment Section last Thursday, Sept. 6, was written by Ruben M. Cruz Jr. The byline was inadvertently dropped. Our apologies – *Ed*

He Will Rock You!
ACTION + COMEDY + ROMANCE BEGINS SEPT. 12
MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
"TWO THUMBS UP!"
EBERT & ROSPER AND THE MOVIES
"'A Knight's Tale' kicks off the summer season in HIGH STYLE! A blend of 'Gladiator' and 'Shakespeare in Love'..."
ANDREW JOHNSTON
US WEEKLY
Featuring music from Robbie Williams + Queen Third Eye Blind, David Bowie WAR & Eric Clapton
HEATH LEDGER
A KNIGHT'S TALE
aknightstale.com
SOUNDTRACK FEATURING "WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS" PERFORMED BY
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

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SOUNDTRACK IN STORES
JA RULE SCARFACE FAITH EVANS
LIMP BIZKIT R.KELLY
DMX METHOD MAN REDMAN
PAUL WALKER VIN DIESEL
MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ
JORDANA BREWSTER
THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS
POWERED BY MOTOLITE
united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
OPENS SEPT.26

OPENS SEPTEMBER 19!
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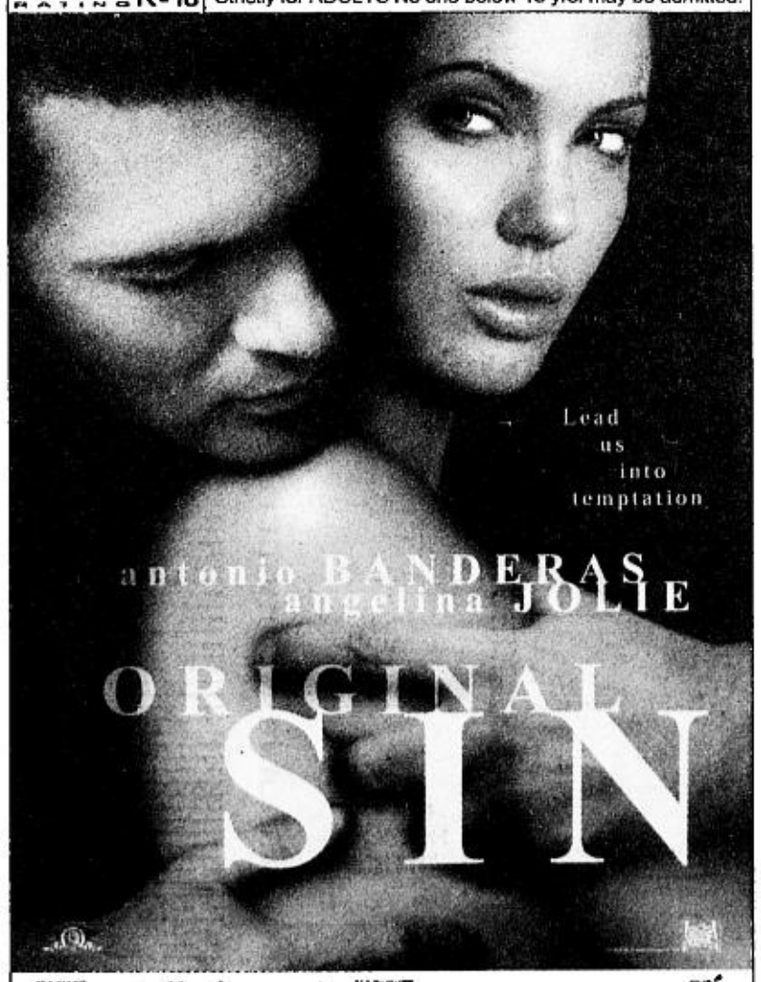

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Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 1413, Series of 2001

SundayBiz
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Growing up to be spin doctors

BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

REMEMBER Richard Gere's movie where he portrayed a PR man, an image-maker?

Very few actually knew him but his clients in the movie were very prominent public figures.

A group of public relations practitioners, who are all members of the International Public Relations Association (Ipra), actually live the life depicted by Gere. And just like in the movie, their clients are among the most influential in the business community.

SundayBiz recently sat down with this group for lunch to talk about the issues facing them and the seeming negative image of PR in general. But that story is for another time and another page.

For this Sunday we tell the tale of how they all started, starting with Virgilio Q. Pantaleon and Max Edralin, the most senior members of the Ipra.

Pantaleon is a consultant at the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and of former Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco, who owns the bank.

Virgil or Mr. P as most people call him, applied as a proofreader at the defunct Philippines Herald. The year was 1949, just five years after the Japanese left the country and the Americans had taken over the Philippines.

Pantaleon says he had just graduated from high school and "was still in my short pants."

But he says that the then executive editor, Joe Lansang, must have taken a fancy to him because he was immediately hired as a reporter. He was made assistant to known writer Chitang Nakpil.

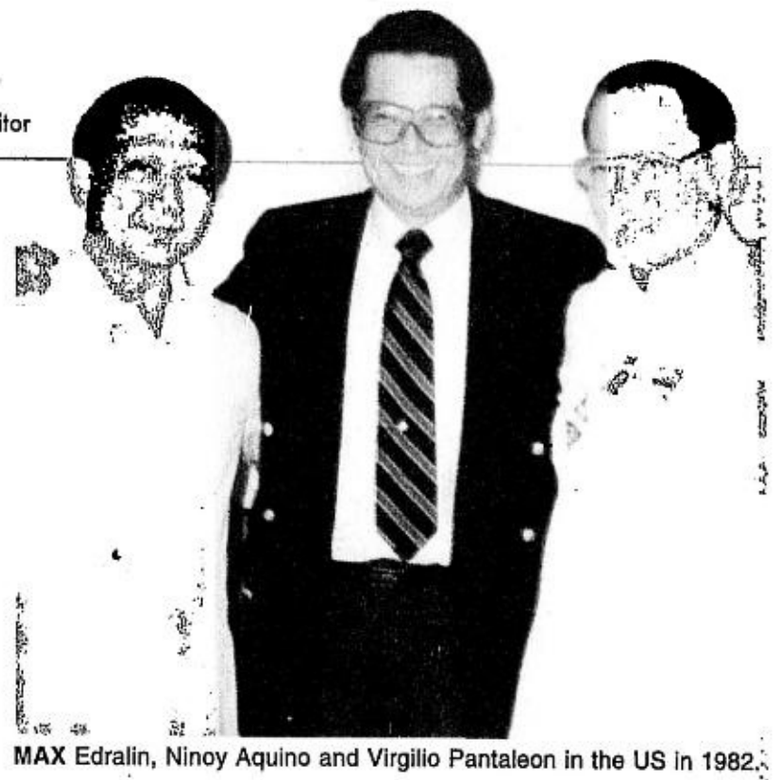
He was paid a relatively big amount of P210 plus transportation allowance of P30 a month.

What did he do with his first pay? "I blew it all on records."

After a year he went back to school and finished his AB at the University of Santo Tomas; then he took up two years of law before joining the Manila Chronicle where he worked for eight years.

When he left he was the sports editor and was earning P550 a month.

GROWING/ B4



MAX Edralin, Ninoy Aquino and Virgilio Pantaleon in the US in 1982.

DEL Rosario TOOTS SOBERANO

From lowly 'pandesal' to food chains

BY KAREN OW-YONG
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—When businessman Michael del Rosario was a young boy, he and his siblings would wake up early to help their father sell *pandesal* at their family's bakery and grocery.

Today, at 48, Del Rosario has not stopped selling *pandesal* and loaves, but most of his time is now spent managing the family's other business establishments as well.

A "Baguio boy," Del Rosario grew up helping his father, the late Rodolfo "Sunny" del Rosario Sr., in tending their modest bakery and grocery.

"I would wake up early in the morning to help my father sell *pandesal* at the bakery," Del Rosario says.

Del Rosario is the manager of one of Baguio's biggest supermarkets, the Sunshine Supermart, and also operates three McDonald's franchises in the city.

Del Rosario graduated from the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, with a degree in business administration and accountancy in 1973.

After graduation, Del Rosario opted to study again while his classmates were getting job offers at big firms and companies in Metro Manila.

"My classmates were offered to work for big companies such as SGV and Procter & Gamble but I decided to enroll at the Philippine Women's University and take up baking so that I can help improve the (family's) bakery," Del Rosario recalls.

Family business

After World War II, Sunshine Supermart only had 40 employees. Today, the bakery is now a spacious and well-staffed supermarket on busy Abanao Street here.

A day after the July 16, 1990 earthquake, Del Rosario said they decided to open the supermarket to serve residents who were running out of provisions.

Del Rosario's employees and loyal customers know him as a "hands-on" businessman.

"In all our businesses, customers are our priority. Whenever I feel that customers are not being attended to, I take the initiative to serve the customer," he says.

In fact, Del Rosario can be seen occasionally clearing tables at McDonald's, bagging groceries at Sunshine Supermart and serving customers and clients at the family-owned Cafe Veniz.

McDonald's franchise

Known to Baguio residents as the man who brought the first McDonald's franchise in the city, Del Rosario is also the first Asian to bring home the much-coveted Archie Awards from the Hamburger University in Chicago, Illinois.

He applied for the fast food franchise in 1990 and spent more than a year in training in the country and two weeks in the United States before he was allowed to open his first McDonald's outlet on Session Road.

"I'm proud to be able to say that the Philippines got the first Archie Awards for Asia," Del Rosario says.

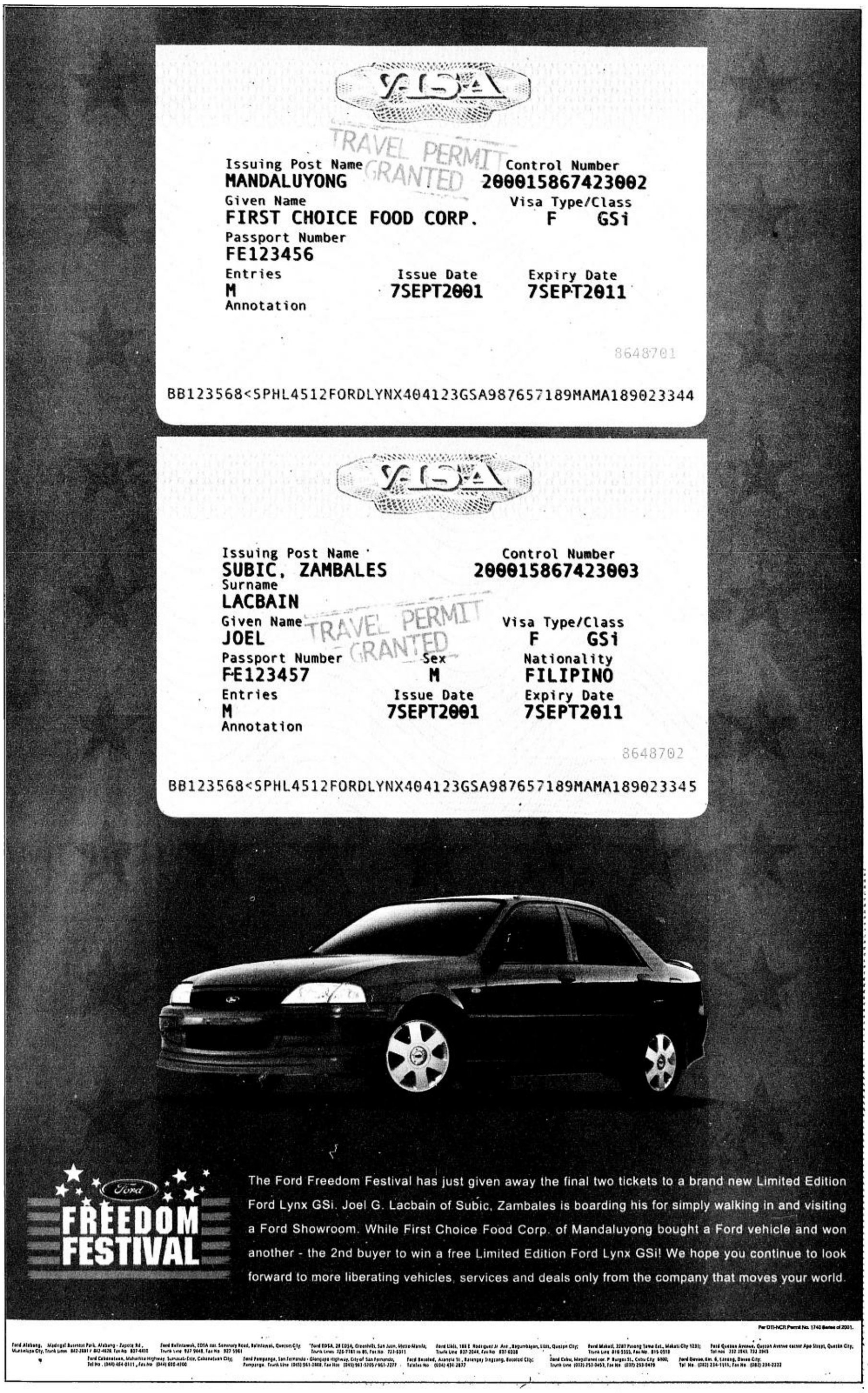
According to him, topping the classes in his two-week training required technical and operating knowledge in the food business, which is a must to be able to pass the course.

"McDonald's has so many standard operating procedures. Take for instance cooking time, shelf life, food safety and other technical and operating procedures," Del Rosario explains.

Del Rosario's management skills were reflected when two of his three McDonald's outlets won several awards in a nationwide competition.

"McDonald's Session was No. 1 in quality service and cleanliness for the whole Philippines during the first nationwide competition. And then a year after that, McDonald's Center Mall was No. 1 in service nationwide. It is something that Baguio can be proud of. We have good people who can run the business well when properly motivated," he says.

FROM/ B2



IN YOUR FACE

BY L. P. LEVISTE

DOOMSAYERS were expecting Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas to present a bleak economic picture when he announced the second quarter results.
Instead, he was happy to share the good news: a 3.3-percent growth in the economy. He can only hope that it will carry over into the rest of the year.

UCPB Hosts Rotary's Reforestation Activity. In line with its goal of promoting environmental awareness, UCPB hosted a tree-planting activity for the family and members of the Rotary Club of NorthBalintawak, tne Rotary Club of Huwei East and students from a public high school in Barangay San Jose, Del Monte at the bank's 81-hectare reforestation site in Antipolo, Rizal.

Timeless, practical principles in a dynamic environment

"The Wisdom of Solomon at Work"
By Charles C. Manz, et al
Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2001

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

ONE remarkable thing is happening in the workplace even in this much bandied about century characterized by speed and frenzied change: The concept of "soul" is reclaiming an area once reserved for revenue generation and profit making.

Suddenly, the concrete corporate jungle is now seen as a "living" organism, having a life of its own, influencing the people in it even as the people are in turn giving it "soul."

EXECUTIVE READ

Another remarkable trend has been noted. Graduate management schools are churning more and more books that go back to antiquity, retrace the "ancient paths," and cull from such a journey timeless principles that will confer meaning to an increasingly absurd existence and offer principles that truly keep your body and soul together—in a much deeper sense.

A supreme irony has been noted in this age of high-speed technology: in the midst of an explosion of information, there is very limited understanding; in an age that has put knowledge on a pedestal, there is no wisdom; in a century full of techniques, principles have become elusive.

The book "Wisdom of Solomon at Work" is a noteworthy attempt to distill life and work principles from the lives, words and insights of five known characters of the Hebrew Bible—or the Old Testament as is commonly known to us.

And lest you suspect that the viewpoint caters to one form of religion, the authors are quick to add that all four of them represent a religious heritage in the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant traditions—all of which trace their roots to Hebrew.

"The Wisdom of Solomon is a holistic perspective that moves us toward a sense of personal integrity where we desire to boldly act out of a set of beliefs and values regardless of the situation in which we find ourselves," the authors say, adding that "struggle, challenge, and change are at the core of our wisdom perspective."

The book chose five Biblical characters with pronounced virtues; faith for Job, courage for David, compassion for Ruth, integrity and justice for Moses, and wisdom for Solomon.

The authors add that the virtues are "interactive"—one virtue building on another. To summarize, they say: "Faith can establish the courage to act with compassion."

Of course, the principles are not as neat as that—because the authors presented the five Biblical characters as "flesh-and-blood," not convenient caricatures. In other words, they are not saints, only forgiven.

The obvious event to demonstrate David's courage was his encounter with Goliath, but the authors have chosen to zero in on the Israelite king's "deeper courage when he faced his own mistakes."

It was David who took a woman who was someone else's wife, tried many cover-ups to hide his secret sin when Batsheba said "I was pregnant"—and, when everything else failed, he sent Batsheba's real husband to the frontline and thus die in raging battle.

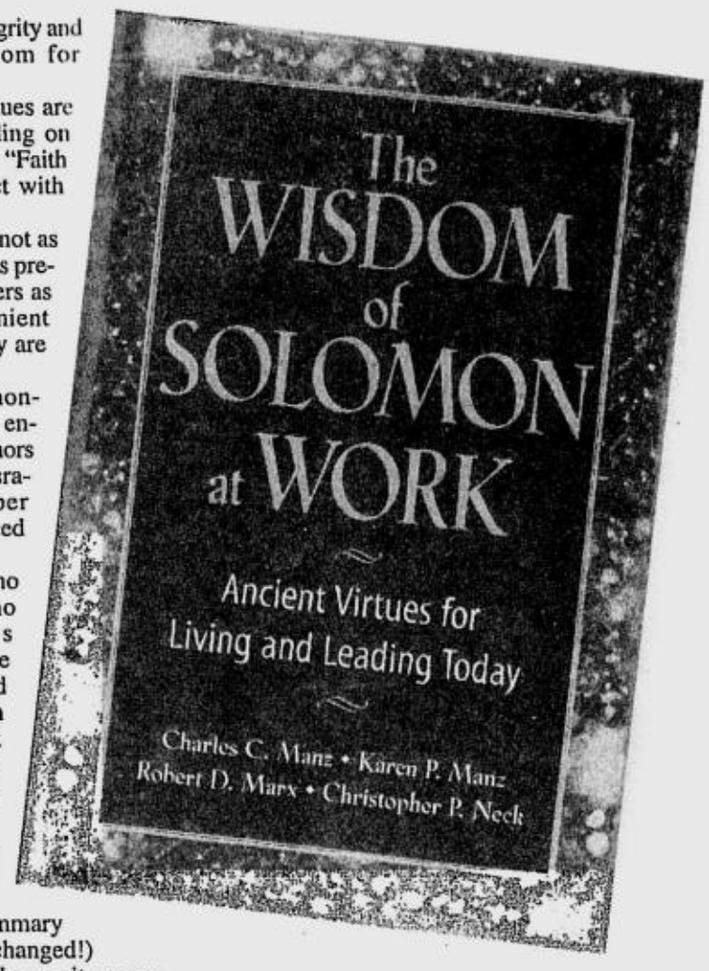
(Our Senate committee hearings discuss cover-up attempts, hidden bank accounts, destroying the evidence and summary executions. Alas, nothing has changed!)

The book has gone even further, as it encourages top executives "to incorporate wisdom into our personal and work lives," by going through a three-step process: recognize, reconcile and reconstruct.

It was convenient in the past to maintain a dichotomy between "business realities" and "ethics born of ancient Biblical principles." The book wants the readers to think through the tension and, perhaps, find a common ground. The authors recommend carrying a "spiritual backpack."

What is inside this "backpack?" It must contain, they say, a mix of stories, legends, and ethical principles from our religious/ethical heritage" that should be handy to the executive when faced with choices and decisions.

You ask: Aren't spiritual issues passé in a secular world governed by business principles, corporate culture and the world's best practices?



The authors reply: "Spiritual issues are central to the challenges of worklife . . . Our vast cultural and technological change has moved us to seek sources of social stability, meaning, and purpose."

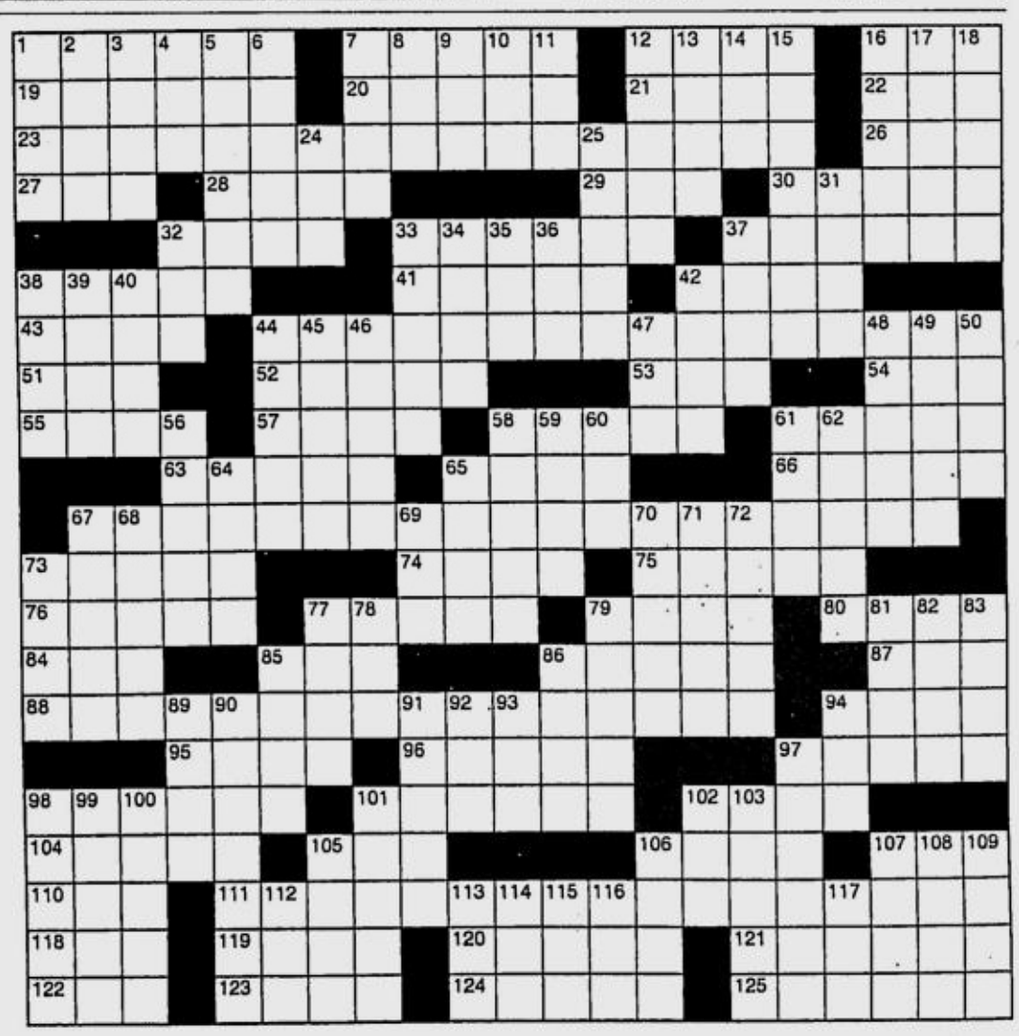
Efficiency and productivity—the gods of commerce—could result from effective organizational structures and judicious data analysis; "but spirit and meaning," if you believe the book, "can often spell the difference between an organization that thrives and one that merely exists."

dzFE, the only classic station in the Philippines, has been successful because it appeals to hard-nosed businessmen by bringing to its listeners the "finer things in life"—appropriately called the "The Master's Touch."

This book somehow falls under the category of offering you something finer and deeper—and, yes, rare. *(dantemv@i-next.net)*

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

IT'S A LIVING



ACROSS
1 Cochise or Geronimo
7 Paul of "Watch on the Rhine"
12 Extend across
16 Taxi
19 Enlarge a garment
20 — terrier
21 Composer Wolf
22 Soissons season
23 What butchers must do
26 Mil. rank
27 Qty.
28 Singer Pitney
29 Impersonate
30 Technique
32 Burns of "Dear John"
33 Danson role
37 Designer McCartney
38 Fancy fiddle
41 Actress Verdugo
42 Healing plant
43 "May I interrupt?"
44 What cobblers must do
51 Word with cow or horse
52 Declaim
53 Theater prop
54 Co. kingpin
55 Leander's love
57 "Do I dare to — peach?"
58 Java joints
61 More congenial
63 Way to go
65 Across, informally
66 Grownup
67 What crooners must do
73 Leroy Brown weapon
74 Roof edge
75 Kilmer classic
76 Bring bliss
77 Bluesman Waters
79 Obligation
80 Canvas cover
84 Botanist Gray
85 NASA affirmative
86 Work hard
87 Quid pro —
88 What models must do
94 Mrs. Jupiter
95 Besides
96 Art supporter?
97 Reluctant
98 Channel swimmer of '26
101 Ophelia's love
102 Neck and neck
104 Actress Thomas
105 Rock's Fleetwood —
106 — plaid
107 Stroke a Saluki
110 Jacket feature
111 What ornithologists must do
118 Antiquity, archaically
119 Burrowing critter
120 Murcia mister
121 Beethoven piece
122 New York city
123 Markey or Bagnold
124 Symbol
125 Phillips — Academy

DOWN
1 Goya's "Duchess of —"
2 It'll curl your hair
3 Keep — (persevere)
4 Pro foe
5 Embraced
6 A great composer?
7 Lifesaver flavor
8 Mary of "Where Eagles Dare"
9 Little fox
10 — blond
11 Woman or mare
12 Contour
13 Brownish purple
14 Past
15 Incessant
16 Beaton or Rhodes
17 Coral outcrop
18 Congresswoman Abzug
24 Waugh's "The Loved —"
25 Trite
31 Borrow permanently?
32 Bread spread
33 Maestro Zubin
34 Nautical adverb
35 Berlioz's "— Troyens"
36 The Plastic — Band
37 Hit hard
38 Belt for a bishop
39 What you used to be
40 Bring up
42 Warts and all
44 — bourguignon
45 A Muse
46 Spud
47 Meadow mama
48 Happen
49 Fishing supplies
50 Legal wrong
56 "Ripley's Believe It —"
58 Comic Chase
59 Racer Luyendyk
60 Mink's coat
61 Spine start
62 What i.e. stands for
64 Mythological meany
65 Senator Cochran
67 Taco topping
68 Writer Walton
69 Cassidy of "The Addams Family"
70 Dutch artist
71 Citified
72 Trivial
73 Enlarge a hole
77 Italian statesman Aldo
78 Luau instrument
79 Resided
81 Blue hue
82 Litter's littlest
83 Cry of contempt
85 Cathedral area
86 "Graf —"
89 Nobleman
90 '84 Steve Martin film
91 Share knowledge
92 Flat hat
93 Fashion monogram
94 Vickers or Bon Jovi
97 Heavyweight Lewis
98 Fireplace fragment
99 Newspaper type
100 Disintegrate
101 Hardly popular
102 Elm City collegian
103 Stuff in a sonnet
105 Saharan nation
106 Microbe
107 HS exam
108 Kitchen addition
109 Dictator
112 Two or more eras
113 Cornerstone abbr.
114 Auto acronym
115 Big bang letters
116 Scuffle
117 Compass pt.

ANSWER ON PAGE B5

New fragrances to flood stores' beauty counters

NEW YORK—It seems everyone, from venerable fashion designers to famous actresses, will be putting their names on new perfume bottles this fall.

Beauty companies are hoping that the dozens of new scents will generate excitement about the stagnant, crowded product category.

Last month, clothing designer Liz Claiborne Inc. started dancing "Mambo" into 2,220 department stores, touting it as the first Latin-influenced fragrance aimed at the general market.

But enthusiasm generated by Mambo and other new products is mixed with concern about the future. Product innovations are the lifeblood of the beauty industry. But responding to the public's and retailers' demand for newness in fragrances puts a strain on companies, which must also maintain support for their classics, said Annette Green, president of the Fragrance Foundation, a non-profit educational arm of the industry.

The life span of fragrances has shortened, and companies must put more and more money into development without being able to enjoy long-running hits, analysts said.

In the last fiscal quarter, US beauty products giant Estee Lauder Cos. Inc., which markets the best-selling scents "Beautiful," "Pleasures" and "Clinique Happy," said its fragrance operating profit was down as a result of lower sales and continued investment spending.

Although the company said it would put less of an emphasis on the lower-profit category going forward, it expects an improvement in the next year, driven by its newest Estee Lauder fragrance, "Intuition," and its upcoming launch of "T," which was created under license from fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger Corp.

New-brand prestige

Despite diminishing returns, beauty companies continue to promote new fragrances because of their power to draw customers to the counters and bestow prestige on their brands.

"It's something that creates an image of yourself, an aspirational image often. So you can see why people gravitate to it," said industry analyst Bill Steele of Banc of America Securities.

"But what you aspired to be two years ago is probably not what you aspire to be now," Steele added, explaining the need for continual innovation.

Reuters

From lowly 'pandesal' . . .

(From page B1)

Aside from McDonald's and Sunshine Supermart, Del Rosario has expanded the family's business interests.

The Sunshine Supermart building has undergone construction and made way for a bookstore, a fast food restaurant, a photo laboratory and a mini takeout food counter. The building is under construction to provide space for the 10-story Hotel Veniz, which is expected to serve tourists by next year.

Across the hall in the same building is the newly-opened Cafe Veniz.

Del Rosario calls this cafe as his "baby."

"The ambiance that we would like to give our customers is a homey atmosphere, one where people are free to meet and talk over a good cup of coffee or over a good lunch or dinner. Actually, our slogan is 'More than just a cafe,' because we are more than just a regular coffee shop," says Del Rosario.

He is particularly proud of the variety of dishes and coffee served at Cafe Veniz.

"Aside from having more than 20 varieties of coffee, hot and cold, we also have Filipino rice meals. We also have *quesadillas*, fresh salads. We have submarine sandwiches and our very own home-cooked tasting burger. We have a very good lineup of desserts, too," he says.

Del Rosario admits though that choosing an Italian-sounding name for a cafe may not initially attract customers in Baguio City.

"We think Cafe Veniz is an underrated coffee shop because the name sounds too classy and intimidating because people think the prices are too high. What we offer are affordable prices, convenience and luxury in an affordable location," he says.

"Our target market is actually mixed. If you look around the cafe, you can see students, young professionals; we have families who come in also. So, it's a mix. We are able to address the ABC and some of the D market."

Del Rosario says Cafe Veniz is the only coffee shop in Baguio City that has its own "10 Commandments."

"Memorize the cafe's 10 Commandments and you get a free dessert," he says.

Hardworking

Hardworking would be the most appropriate word to describe Del Rosario. Working seven days a week, 12 to 14 hours a day, is normal to him.

"My wife used to tell me that I even talk business in my dreams while I sleep," he says laughing.

But after joining the Catholic charismatic movement 12 years ago, Del Rosario says he learned to slow down a little.

"Now I only work six-and-a-half days a week, eight to 10 hours a day," he says.

If time permits, Del Rosario goes swimming and tennis to relieve stress. If not, he is at home reading inspirational books.

Running the family business with his siblings has also strengthened their relationship towards each other.

When Del Rosario's elder brother, Dennis, died in 1992 after a heart attack, the family put up and named a pharmacy at the second floor of Sunshine Supermart after him.

The pharmacy and its suppliers have been giving free medical examinations once a week for the past eight years as their contribution to the Baguio community.

Del Rosario says he has taught his children, through his example, perseverance and frugality.

"My eldest daughter, Jennifer, works at McDonald's as a part-time service crew, as well as my 16-year-old son, James Arthur," he proudly says.

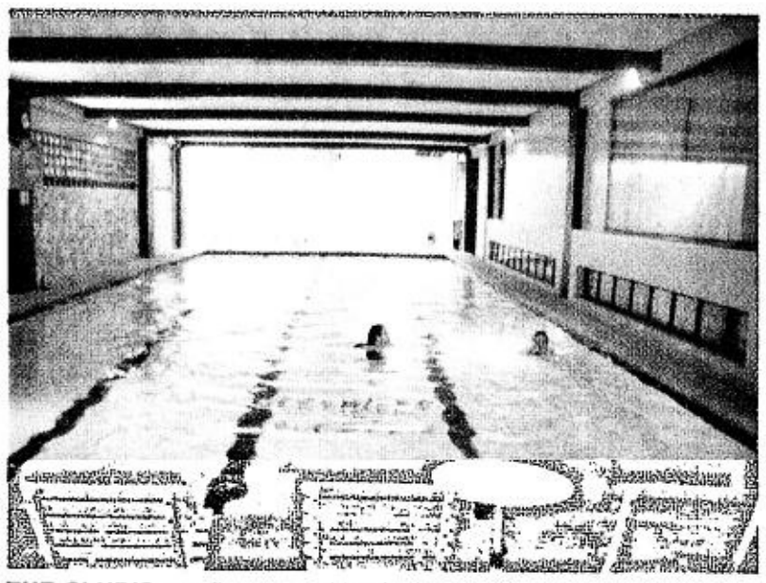
When asked what is his secret for success, Del Rosario attributes it to God's grace, a supportive spouse in Angie whom he met while he was a part-time lecturer at the University of the Philippines College Baguio.

He says he also has a supportive family—a source of joy and inspiration—and a good management team and well-trained staff.

Del Rosario says he believes that it is important to keep an open line of communication between the management and staff to keep his businesses healthy.

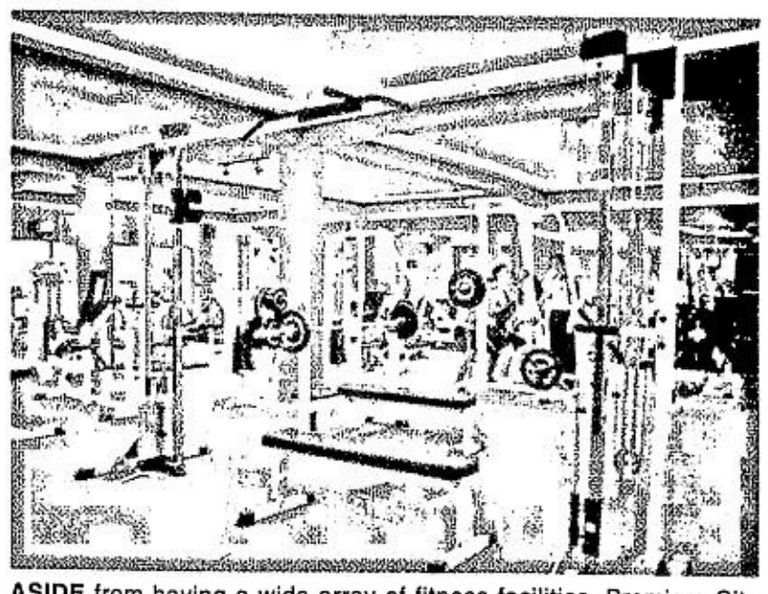
"We have an open-door policy wherein anybody from whatever position can feel free to come up to my office to confide or to talk about his or her problems," he says.

PREMIERE City Club has employed the services of the Philippines' No. 1 badminton player, Ian Piencenaves, to help clients try out this sport at the club's indoor badminton courts.



THE CLUB'S wet-floor amenities include a four-lane, five-foot-deep indoor lap pool.

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA



ASIDE from having a wide array of fitness facilities, Premiere City Club is popular because of its bevy of fitness instructors ready to lend a hand to members' needs.

Another club in Ortigas guns for the execs

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

BUSINESSMEN, chief executives and young urban professionals usually have to go to Makati or Ortigas to exercise, get a massage or indulge in their favorite sport. Many end up feeling harassed because these places are usually packed and then they have to brave the traffic on their way home.

The Premiere City Club along 1st street, New Manila, Quezon City is, the latest addition to the growing number of city clubs sprouting all over the metropolis. Because of its location, it has siphoned customers away from the Makati clubs especially those living in Quezon City, Ortigas and even as far as Caloocan.

Premiere City Club is owned and operated by a group of young Chinese-Filipino businessmen who decried the lack of state-of-the-art facilities in Quezon City. It opened its doors less than a year ago and sits on a 24,000 square meter property with parking facilities for 100 cars.

Its facilities include the customary gym and fitness center where aerobics classes are held, spa and massage parlors for men and women, a four-lane indoor pool, jacuzzi and sauna and standard badminton courts.

Premiere City Club has also expanded its services to include facial and beauty treatments, bleaching, waxing, body wrap to attract the growing number of female executives looking for ways to relieve weary muscles.

There is also a pro shop for those who need fitness equipment and a café that serves all kinds of refreshments.

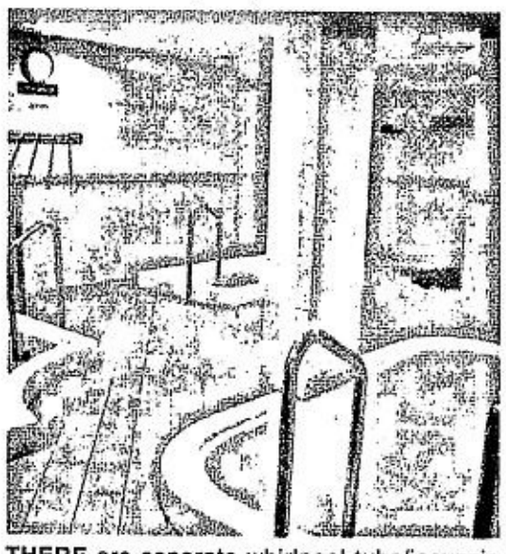
"Our concept is more like a mini sports club, an adult's playground. The spa area is open to walk-ins, while the fitness center is exclusively for members," says Premiere club manager Nestor Hernandez.

Jay Jornales, Premiere marketing manager, adds that Premiere decided to put in badminton courts to take advantage of the rising popularity of the sport.

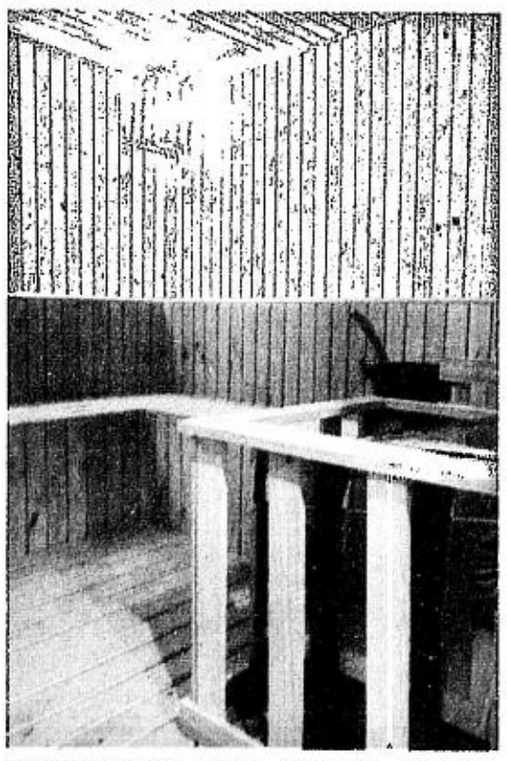
Premiere also plans to offer different sports clinics for swimming, badminton and tae kwon do exclusively for members and their families.

Aside from the full range of sports and massage facilities, Premiere tries to attract clients by offering a competitive membership package so that more people can make use of its facilities.

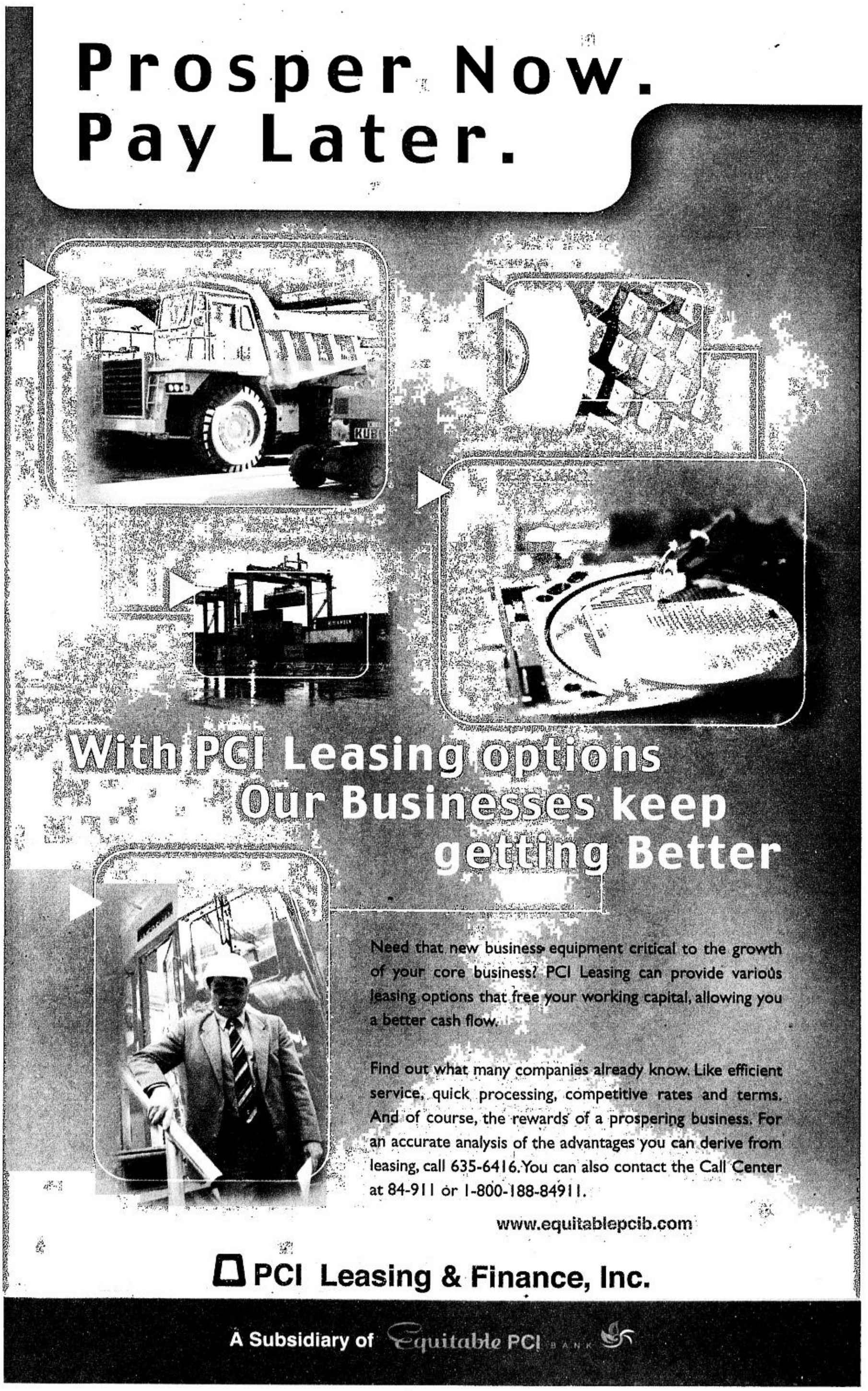
Its ongoing promotion package includes lifetime membership fees of P30,000 and massages for as low as P450 per visit.



THERE are separate whirlpool tubs/jacuzzis for men and women.



PREMIERE City Club also has separate saunas for male and female clients with their respective locker areas.



Growing up to be spin doctors

(From page B1)

He then moved to Caltex Phils. Inc, where he was first paid P664 a month as editor of publications until he became head of its PR department. He retired after 31 years.

Max Edralin

Max Edralin is the PR consultant of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura. Buenaventura personally got him in because they worked together in Citibank in the '80s.

Like Pantaleon, Edralin also started at the Philippines Herald as a messenger boy.

He joined the daily newspaper with the late leftist leader Antonio Zumel. Edralin was the messenger boy of Modesto Farolan, who was then the publisher/ editor.

That was in 1949 and he was given a pay of P125 a month plus transportation allowance of P60. Minimum wage at that time was P4 a day.

He spent P70 from his first paycheck on a new watch—a Bulova, which he says he bought at the Oceanic, a very popular store for fine things, half a century ago.

He spent 14 years at the Herald and his last beat was Malacañang. When he left he was earning P500 a month plus allowance of P60.

The Herald was one of the six newspapers closed during martial law in 1971.

In 1963, then Secretary of Commerce Cornelio Balmaceda offered to double Edralin's salary to be his PR.

Before he accepted the job he asked the publisher of the Herald, an American, if he can go back to the newspaper if things do not work out.

"My publisher told me—you must be crazy Max to accept P500 again," he recalls.

He stayed with Balmaceda until 1965 after which he became an information-liaison officer of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization until 1969.

After that, it was four years with San Miguel as PRO and then 18 years with Citibank.

Since then he has been doing consultancy work and his clients include ING Barings, Solidbank Corp., Philam Properties Corp.

JOY Buensalido circa '90s; circa '70s

Virtusio

Romeo P. Virtusio graduated from UP in 1961 and found himself working as a special assistant to Mercy Beck, chair of the National Advertising Agency, one of the biggest ad agencies in the country then; and PR assistant of Rufino Hechanova, the agency's GM.

ROMY Virtusio today and yesterday

His first paycheck of P150 was immediately turned over to his mother who gave him an allowance.

He stayed at the agency for two years before moving to Ace Compton (now Saatchi and Saatchi) where he stayed for less than two years as an account management trainee.

He found his calling at J. Walter Thompson where he spent almost 23 years of his life. He started as PR account executive, then PR supervisor until he was made EVP and GM of Lexington International, the PR arm of JWT.

He says he learned so much about PR from the agency.

In 1989, he left JWT and put up his own PR outfit—Virtusio Public Relations Inc., where he works with his entire family—wife Lulu, and children, Arel and Dessa.

He also recently put up another firm, Contex Communications International.

Virtusio says he finds tremendous fulfillment in public relations because he is able to combine his skills as a writer and practice his creativity in his entrepreneurial ventures.

Perceptions

Rene Nieva, head of Perceptions Inc., finished economics at the Ateneo de Manila. He worked briefly as an economics research assistant in the Mindanao Development Co. under Narciso Ferrer.

"I had a boring job where I had to go to the census and get all sorts of data," he recalls.

That was in 1962 and his pay was only P25 a month. After only two months he moved to the Business Relations International, a PR agency of Jose Carpio, one of the pioneers of PR in the country.

Nieva got a monthly pay of P180 and his work involved PR training and writing press releases, and speeches.

He recalls that their office was in Plaza Cervantes in Binondo where the elevator man would be wearing Americana cerrada in white.

Nieva left BRI for the US in 1967 to take up postgraduate studies at the Center for Corporate and Political Communications at Fairfield University in Connecticut. He finished at the top of his class and moved on to work for international PR firm Curtis J. Hoxter Inc. in New York where he rose to the position of vice president.

He returned to the Philippines in 1976 and then moved to different ports abroad before finally putting up his own firm, Perceptions, in 1987.

Nieva has been national councilor for the Philippines of the Ipra for three terms and has been elected to serve another term from 2001-2002. He was former vice president of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines in 1987.

EDD Fuentes as a young ad exec

AMYLYN de Quiros then and now.

Fuentes

Edd Fuentes of Fuentes Publicity Network Inc. was a fresh graduate of industrial engineering from UP when he joined Sison and Associates, under the very colorful person of Adi Sison.

He stayed for a year and his pay was P300. Like Virtusio, he turned over his first pay to his mother and only received an allowance.

He then moved to the Motivators, an advertising agency, which became Basic Advertising. He was a copywriter for two years before moving to Hemisphere which eventually became Leo Burnett. As a copywriter he got P900 a month.

He moved to J. Walter Thompson and started as a senior copywriter before occupying the associate creative director post for Unilever, then JWT's largest account.

In 1982, while doing creative work for JWT, he set up Moviola, a dinner and drinks place in Manila that lasted 10 years.

"I would man the bar until early morning and the following morning I would rush to a presentation at J. Walter," he recalls. His only explanation is that he does not like to stay still.

He left the advertising agency in 1986 receiving a monthly pay of some P20,000.

He joined Yolly V. Ong, in setting up Campaigns, a new ad agency, in 1987 and was one of the original stockholders. But Fuentes says he felt he was still employed so he decided to go on his own.

At first he would only do projects "*a la* guerrilla style." But as he got more clients, he decided to set up Fuentes Publicity, which he describes as a below the line marketing outfit.

Today Fuentes does events, PR, ad placements and graphics design.

Buensalido

Joy Buensalido of Buensalido and Associates finished Broadcasting at UP. Her first job paid her P452 a month in 1972 as executive assistant to former Education Minister Onofre Corpuz, then president of Fund for Assistance to Private Education, a lending institution for private teachers.

DULCE Festin-Baybay circa '70s and '90s

She blew her first paycheck on shopping and treating her parents out to dinner at a time when the minimum wage was only P350 a month.

In 1973, she was communications officer for a nongovernment organization, the Responsible Parenthood Council.

After a couple of years, she moved to the Development Academy of the Philippines as project staff assistant to Horacio "Boy" Morales who was DAP's EVP and was responsible for all development projects.

In 1978, she was pirated by Ace Compton as its PR account manager. She was given P5,000 a month and handled big firms like Pepsi Cola, Nestle and Procter & Gamble. After five years and rising to the post of PR account supervisor, her pay rose to P8,000 month.

At that point, she realized that there was not much room for growth in the company for her so she decided to go on her own. That was 1983.

At first she was a freelance PR. In 1985, she put up Buensalido and Associates.

Her major clients are Avon and Triple-V.

ABS-CBN'S Baybay

Dulce Festin-Baybay has come full circle in life in terms of her employer. She started with the Eugenio Lopez Foundation as chief researcher under Renato Constantino Sr. in 1971.

Her first pay was P700 a month which she turned over to her mother because she believed that it will bring her luck.

Today she is the public relations manager of the ABS-CBN Foundation.

In between she worked with Sunburst Magazine as a features writer and chief researcher. After a few years she moved to the Manila Chronicle where she was a columnist.

Baybay taught history at the Assumption College. She finished her degree in History from UP. She has been involved in various NGOs and co-anchored several segments of the radio program "Balita-Balitita" for PPCRV.

Full circle

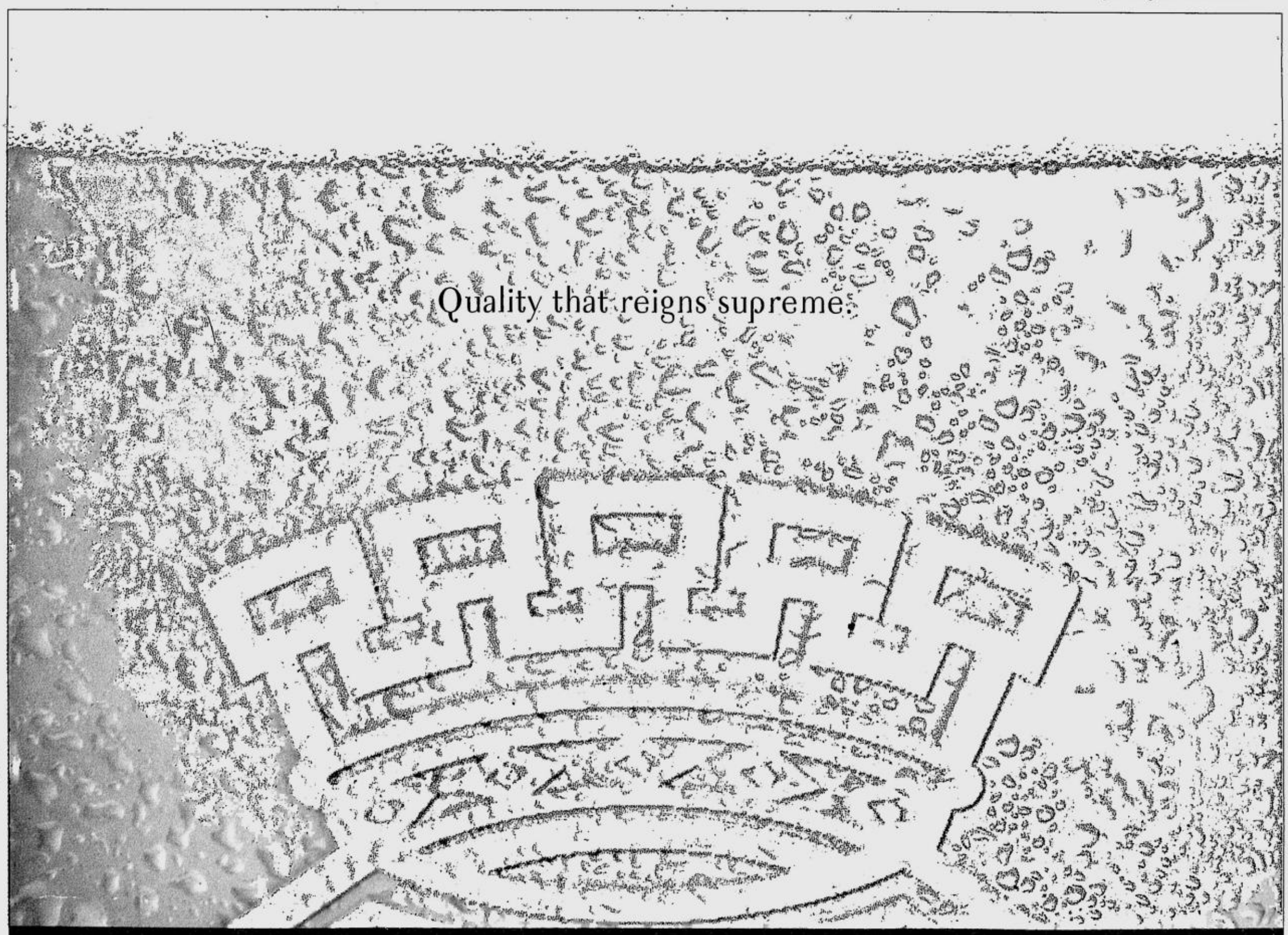
Amylyn S. de Quiros finished AB Political Science at UP. In 1978 she joined the Bureau of National Foreign Information which was under the Office of the Press Secretary.

Her boss was restaurateur Larry Cruz who paid her a monthly salary of P700.

She says she gave her first paycheck to her father, Jesus Sison, as payment for her debts. She stayed with the bureau until 1982, after which she joined Land Bank of the Philippines until 1999, a total of 17 years.

She was VP for public affairs when she left.

One and a half years ago she put up Full Circle Communications, her own PR outfit. She says she discovered there is a market for PR for middle-sized firms and enjoys several clients despite being new in the business.



Hotel loyalty programs seen to have minimal impact

LOS ANGELES—Travelers swear by them, and often even alter their plans to earn more miles on their frequent flier plans.

But when it comes to customer loyalty for hotels, the same people are far less loyal to the hotels they frequent, placing more importance on factors like services and—above all else—location, according to analysts and frequent travelers.

A new consumer survey organization by J.D. Power and Associates found that only about 30 percent of travelers showed "strong loyalty" to a hotel chain when they travel.

Among those surveyed, 36 percent of people said they were likely to stay at the same hotel more than once, 33 percent said they were likely to recommend a hotel they liked, and 24 percent said they were likely to stay at the same hotel chain.

The overall loyalty figure of about 30 percent is roughly equivalent to the proportion of customers who cited loyalty programs in their decision to stay at various brands operated by Hilton Hotels Corp., a spokesperson said.

Analysts said the degree of loyalty for hotels is surprisingly low—especially given the emphasis operators have placed on such programs in recent years. Hotels, however, countered that the loyalty numbers show their programs are driving a growing volume of repeat business.

The number is particularly low compared with the degree of loyalty for airline frequent flier programs, said Chase Burritt, national partner of hospitality advisory services at Ernst & Young.

Comparable statistics for the airline industry were not available from J.D. Power, but a recent survey by Inside Flyer magazine found 91 percent of people said they would not remain loyal to their airline without frequent flier programs.

Location vs brand

"Hotel customers are still driven by location more than they are strictly by brand," Burritt said. "They're more interested in being located close to their plants, or in the right block within a big city."

Burritt cited himself as an example of a frequent traveler whose brand loyalty is not a major factor when he chooses his hotels.

"That would compare to my airline travel, which is strictly American (Airlines)," he said. "I would move my dates, my times, would even take a second leg (on a flight) to take American. That's not because American is such a great airline, but because of the (frequent flier) points."

But Hilton spokesperson Marc Grossman said the 30 percent of travelers who go out of their way to use certain hotel brands due to loyalty programs is, in fact, a large number.

He pointed out that Hilton's own percentage of customers who make their choice based on loyalty programs has risen to 30 percent from 25 percent over the last 18 months.

He added that many of the major hotel operators, including Hilton, Marriott International Inc. and Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc., are made up of various brands assembled through acquisitions over the last few years, meaning they still need time to build their loyalty programs.

"These programs are huge," Grossman said. "They're there to build brand loyalty. If you want to be a big and viable competitor in the hotel business today, you've got to have one of these." *Reuters*

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

A	P	A	C	H	E	■	L	U	K	A	S	■	S	P
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PLASTIC has emerged as an option to glass.

Packaging the French way

(From page B7)

and that was cost effective.

Sidel claims that the Actis process meets all these criteria by endowing a standard PET bottle with unrivaled barrier properties to carbon dioxide (30 times better) and oxygen (seven times better). The barrier properties guarantee an optimum shelf life of at least six months for beer. The technology is applied using an Actis 20 machine that is able to process 10,000 bottles an hour and is installed downstream from the blow-molder.

The French group forecast that Actis and aseptic technologies would open up access to new applications that more than double the potential market for PET from 370 billion to 895 billion units, primarily from the larger share of the beer and fruit juice, teas and other isotonic drinks markets.

In the company's briefing last April, Sidel communication manager Bertrand Guillet said the company had already shipped 10 Actis machines, including one to Kronenbourg, a subsidiary of Heineken that has since produced plastic beer bottles.

These beer bottles were introduced into the French market in November 2000, but by industry accounts, have had a disappointing reception.

Philip Seyer of Gebo, a subsidiary of Sidel that offers consultation for bottlers, says that the PET market in the Philippines would not really take off given San Miguel Corp.'s lack of interest in pushing plastic.

SMC controls the market and produces glass bottles, Seyer points out.

Sidel, however, does have presence in the Philippines. It sold four machines here last year and expects to achieve the same amount of sales this year.

The commercial director of ADS, another plastic bottle machine maker and a rival of Sidel, also shares the view that the potential for beer is huge.

"But," Pascal Lefevre says, "today it's not ready. It doesn't work."

Aside from losing its coldness fast, the shelf life of six months is not satisfactory in the industry, Lefevre points out.

Both ADS and Sidel feel that aside from beer, the potential for milk in PET is massive though the market was just beginning to grow.

A tour of ADS' facilities showed the process of making a plastic bottle. First, what look like thick test tubes, pre-forms,

ADS offers range of seven machines. The private company design machines, subcontracts production and doesn't do anything except assembling. It claims to have the fastest machine in the world, the G62, which can create 1,600 plastic bottles per hour per cavity.

Capping

Once plastic bottles are made, there's another process that they have to go through; they have to be capped.

Capping expert Zalkin Andre et Cie, based in the picturesque and historical area of Normandy, ensures quality and of their machines and that caps will be tight with no outside air coming in.

The company employs over 300 people in this famous province known also for excellent Camembert cheese. It had a total turnover of FF220 million, of which 90 percent was from exports. In fact, several large Philippine multinational companies have bought capping machines from the French firm. Procter & Gamble is an exclusive partner worldwide.

"We can do everything in capping," Zalkin Asian zone manager Bernard Stroobant declares.

Their machines are also high capacity and can cap 1,200 bottles per minute. Zalkin also produces sophisticated machines for the pharmaceutical industry and these can cap 80,000 vials per hour. It is one of the few companies that build parts itself instead of outsourcing.

Zalkin also makes many more hoppers, the machines that put caps in the right position on the production line. It also offers de-cappers, which can do 30,000 bottlers per hour.

Stroobant says that the new trend in the industry is aseptic filling or aseptic capping.

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

3 killer diseases can now be history

THE WORLD'S largest non-prescription medical company launches its newest high-tech division here in the Philippines. A free medical symposium is scheduled today at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel on Roxas Boulevard. Those concerned about their health are encouraged to attend, and entrepreneurs are being sought as spokespersons.

Your body is a wonder of nature—a unique biological machine finely tuned and adapted to its functions and its natural environment. But so many lifestyle and environmental factors—from stress to pollution, from fast foods to hard work—can interfere with your body's ability to perform at its peak.

Earlier in this century, medical science made great advances with the introduction of so-called "miracle drugs." These pharmaceutical substances fought symptoms and diseases, saving lives and relieving suffering. But so many drugs relieve without healing. Often, they have side effects, and even more frequently they create dependencies or significantly alter body chemistry. And while no one can deny the usefulness of drugs, more and more we're learning that the best therapy is to live your life so that you never need them.

Finally, there's a "back-to-basic" approach to this serious health challenge that's being offered here in the Philippines by the largest nutritional company in the world. Royal Numico is a global giant with a rich tradition of wellness going back over 100 years and their newest division, Unicity Network, will be discussing this in a free, one-hour seminar today. Ongoing research worldwide continues to support many of the significant findings of this medical company. Attendees will learn about:

• A new patented formula of nutrients, amino acids and mineral has been proven to dissolve existing plaque deposits in coronary arteries.

• A diet high in soluble fiber can help reduce cholesterol and reduce the risk of heart disease, colon cancer, hypertension, stroke, diabetes and other diseases.

• Stabilization of blood sugar levels can be achieved naturally, thereby avoiding the use of insulin and other potentially harmful medications.

According to Dr. Franklin Murphy, "It is extremely difficult to obtain soluble fiber in a healthy diet and, as a result, over 90 percent of us do not reach the optimum levels. If you don't get an optimum amount of fiber, a fiber supplement made up of a combination of both soluble and insoluble fibers is recommended."

In the highly acclaimed book "Anti-Aging Secrets," the only fiber supplement that is recommended is the Bios Life 2 Natural Advanced Fiber and Nutrient Drink Mix. Offered exclusively in the Philippines by Unicity Network. This tasty and inexpensive formula was developed by the company and carries two US patents for the "Method and Composition for the Reduction of Serum Cholesterol."

So often, in today's society, we hear of sudden heart attacks killing fathers of young children long before their jobs are done, and advanced stages of cancer leaving daughters motherless. And yet we just assume that these "early

PLDT GROUP IN TELECOMS FAIR

In line with the group's effort to help in the development of the country's telecommunications sector, PLDT along with e-PLDT and Smart Communications Inc. participated in CommAsia 2001, a telecommunications fair held at the World Trade Center. Executives from these PLDT companies joined other telecoms officials in the trade and industry exposition to discuss emerging trends and challenges in the telecoms industry. The fair coincided with the celebration of the National Electronics and Telecommunications Week. Shown is Rene Meily, PLDT vice president, welcoming President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the PLDT booth inside the fair.

THE PRESIDENTS' NIGHT

Past and present presidents of Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) received their commemorative bottles during CCBPI's 20th anniversary celebration held recently at the NBC Tent at The Fort. The commemorative bottles were retrieved from the waters off Bantayan Island where they lay on the sea floor for almost five decades. Shown are (from left) Genju Lapez, incoming CCBPI president; Jesus Celdran, the first Filipino president of CCBPI; Neville Isdell, CCBPI's first president; Nilo To, CCBPI executive vice president and chief commercial officer; and Peter Baker, CCBPI president.

WG&A, coast guard work together

SAFE sea travel not only entails state-of-the-art facilities and equipment but more importantly, a well-trained maritime staff and government officials who will see to it that the riding public arrives at their destination safely and on time.

This is why providing safe sea travel is the No. 1 priority of all shipping companies in the country. Second is the provision of a well-trained and highly knowledgeable crew on the perils of sea travel and how they should address these issues in times of emergency. The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), on the other hand, is tasked to ensure that our territorial waters are feasible for the safe transport of people, goods and services.

WG&A Philippines, the country's largest shipping company, and the PCG, in their objective to assure passenger safety and protection of property, have formed a partnership agreement to train their staff, crew and coast guard officers on maritime safety and security. Dubbed "The PCG-WG&A Shipboard Training Program," both parties aim to further improve the implementation of the safety of life and property at sea and protection of the maritime environment.

PCG personnel onboard WG&A's interisland vessels will learn the various methods and techniques on piloting and navigation, deck activities and engine work, among others. By undergoing this process, PCG personnel will now have on-hand skills on how to navigate a ship, especially when saving precious lives in the open sea.

After undergoing the two-week process, all PCG trainees will then submit a shipboard training report to document and assess the knowledge they acquired during the training.

For its part, WG&A staff and crew will be taught by PCG officers on maritime skills and technicalities. This interchange of maritime expertise between the two organizations will surely benefit them in their quest to promote camaraderie and a good working relationship between the private and public sectors.

WG&A, in its effort to help the administration in nation-building, has also launched several socio-civic programs, one of which is the Lakbay Patrol program to protect the environment.

WG&A has also implemented an on-the-job training program for maritime cadets in public and private maritime colleges and universities. The program allows maritime students to learn more than just the theoretical aspects of shipping but also the practical application of maritime SOPs. The shipping company, at the same time, has forged an agreement with the Philippine Navy for the free training and seminar of security personnel.

A government-partner in its fight against illegal drug use and sale, WG&A has also tied-up with the Philippine National Police Narcotics Group for "Mamayan Ayaw sa Droga" (MAD), a sectoral group against illegal drug use and activities among the youth.

With these ongoing activities for various sectors of the community, WG&A has further reinforced its commitment to being a "company that cares" in helping the country get back on its feet. Undoubtedly, WG&A is poised to become a globally competitive company, delivering only the best and efficient maritime transport services for Filipinos nationwide.

HP TEAMS UP WITH NEW CHANNEL PARTNER

Hewlett-Packard (HP), the world's leading provider of digital imaging, printing and computing solutions, recently signed Standard Marking Systems (SMS) as its newest commercial reseller in an effort to provide customers more avenues to avail of leading edge technology products and give consumers easier access to HP products. Under the partnership agreement, SMS is licensed to sell HP's various product lines as personal computers, notebooks, servers, printers, CD writers, all-in-ones and storage products. The partnership aims to strengthen HP's leadership position in the home and business computing as well as digital imaging and printing space. Shown are HP final tier manager Anabelle Co and SMS sales manager Valentin Chung sealing the partnership with a handshake.

DELTA FAUCET JOINS UAP EXHIBIT

The top faucet brand in the US, Delta Faucet Company, recently participated in the 27th UAP (United Architects of the Philippines) exhibit and annual national convention at the Manila Midtown Hotel. In line with this year's UAP National Convention theme, "The Filipino Digital Architect on the Global Stream," Delta Faucet Company joined the UAP construction exhibit which features construction suppliers and professionals who have assimilated the use of IT as a means of the promoting their products and services and the implementation of construction projects all over the country and the rest of the world. At the UAP convention, Delta Faucet business liaison officer Jess Lugue also stressed that the Internet has made significant changes for Delta Faucet these past few years at international and local levels. That's why Delta Faucet spent the past few years integrating IT to the company's operations such as their website www.deltafaucet.com. The site offers information on Delta Faucet's products and various trends and updates on faucets. Shown are construction professionals getting to know more about the style and function of Delta Synergy, one of Delta Faucet's featured products at the convention.

PLANTERS EXECUTIVE AT BANCNET CONFAB

Planters Development Bank senior vice president Ismael G. Estela, Jr. was a guest speaker at the 4th Bancnet Annual Executive Forum at the New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati City. Speaking on the topic "Strategic Approaches to e-Commerce and e-Banking," Estela (inset) discussed before confab delegates the inroads made by SME.com.ph, also known as PlantersbankeCommerce Inc., in using web-based solutions to help small and medium enterprises to increase sales, reduce expenses and manage their business efficiently at very affordable costs. SME.com.ph is a joint venture of Plantersbank, the country's leading bank for SMEs, the World Bank's International Finance Corp. (IFC) and Silicon Valley-based IT provider eVicor.

GRAND OPENING FOR PIZZA HUT SM SUCAT

You can now enjoy the best pizzas under one roof as Pizza Hut, the world's number one pizza restaurant, opens another branch at the newly opened SM Sucat. The grand opening was graced by the reigning Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Zorayda Ruth Andam. Also present were Rose Herrera, vice president for operations of Pizza Hut, Yeyel Herrera, area manager for Pizza Hut, Henry Sy of the SM Group of Companies, and Tagumpay de Guzman, restaurant manager for Pizza Hut SM Sucat branch. Pizza Hut is the largest pizza chain in the world with over 12,000 restaurants worldwide. It has a network of over 89 restaurants nationwide, with the recent restaurant openings at Session Road in Baguio City, Shell North Station in Balagtas, Bulacan and Alabang Town Center.

Brand-Rex conducts fiber training

BRAND-REX, a major global supplier of datacom and telecom cabling solutions, will hold a training on optical cable installation, optical termination methods and acceptance testing on Sept. 11 and 12 at the Renaissance Room of the New World Hotel in Makati City. This "fiber training" is a very useful and practical training for cable installers who wish to understand the practical aspects of installing, splicing, terminating and testing optical cable to the latest standards. Interested parties may get in touch with Microwarehouse Inc. – the primary provider of Brand-Rex cabling products in the Philippines at (632) 637-0474 (ask for Hanako Gayondato).

RP's first oxygen bar opens

SAY goodbye to coffee and tea because the country's first oxygen bar opens its doors to provide weary Metro Manilans an alternative, albeit more effective way of coping with the stresses of urban life. A brainchild of Richarest G. Velasco, daughter of Filipino aromatherapist pioneer Madeleine G. Velasco, the oxygen bar like its counterparts in Europe and America is designed to give clients a quick supply of 99-percent pure oxygen to make up for the depletion of oxygen in the atmosphere caused by pollution. Velasco asserted that a 20-minute treatment at the oxygen bar will provide the same amount of fresh air that a person would receive if he was sitting in an untouched forest, and a breath of such unpolluted pure oxygen does many wonders to the body, mind and soul. The advent of oxygen therapy stems from the findings of Dr. Otto Warburg, twice Nobel Prize laureate, who proved that cancer cannot grow in a high-oxygen environment. The oxygen bar is located right at the premises of The Aromatherapy Center in Greenbelt Park, Ayala Center, Makati City. For an appointment, call The Aromatherapy Center at 812-9002.

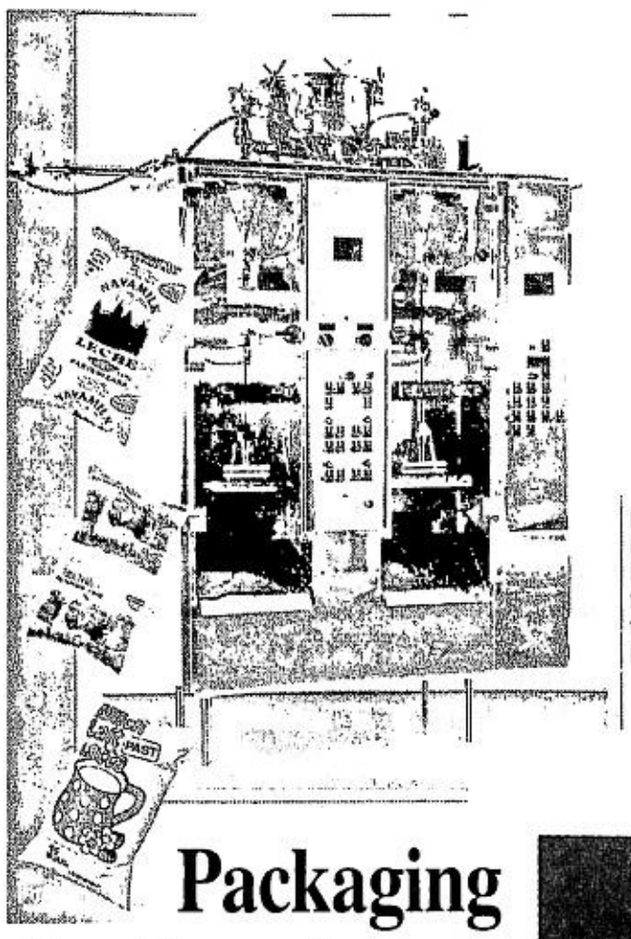
BITS Clips

Italian firm signs up for PowerTrends

AN Italian firm manufacturing environmentally safe products and technologies has confirmed its participation in PowerTrends 2001, the biennial international exhibition on new trends in energy and power engineering scheduled for Dec. 5 to 7 this year at the World Trade Center, Metro Manila. Originally set for Sept. 25 to 27, PowerTrends 2001 has been moved to the new date to coincide with this year's observance of Energy Week, an annual event sponsored by the Department of Energy. Ambiente 2001, which is based in Italy, will exhibit a generating process using liquid and solid waste. This new generating process will showcase the significance of new and renewable energy, the focus of the Philippines' energy development plan. PowerTrends is organized by Singapore-based Interfama International and Interfama Philippines. Interested parties may call Elizabeth Cruz or Robert Sanchez at (632) 818-6828 or e-mail lvrge@netasia.net.

Grandparents Day at SM

Treat Lolo and Lola to a grand time at the SM Supermalls as it celebrates Grandparents Day today, Sept. 9. It's a grand affair at the SM Malls as Star Records puts the spotlight on good old love songs in the Grandparents Videoke Singing Contest. The Grandparents Videoke Singing Contest will be held at SM Centerpoint at 5 p.m. The Grandparents Ballroom and Modern Dancing activity is scheduled at SM Southmall on Sept. 9; SM City Bacoor on Sept. 14; and SM City Fairview on Sept. 15. Storyland joins the celebration with a parade today at SM Southmall and SM Fairview.



McDONALD'S relies on Prepac to fill sachets with ketchup.

Packaging the French way

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

IN THE packaging world, those well-known Zesto juice packs are called stand up pouches. Among the world leaders in this kind of liquid and semi-liquid packaging is 40-year- old Prepac of France.

The company has sold to 115 countries worldwide over 10,000 machines for filling milk, fruit juice, water, oil sauces, tomato ketchup and other food service products into pouches.

McDonald's relies on Prepac machine to fill sachets with ketchup, toppings or strawberry sauce. McCormick also counts on the company's technology.

Prepac commercial director Jean Claude Guilleux, who gave an extensive and interesting briefing on the company's business during a tour of the facilities in France last April, expounds on the major assets of Prepac pouches: environmental friendliness, low cost, sturdiness, ease of use, and effective conservation.

In terms of cost, pouches are a much cheaper alternative to other types of materials.

For example, a pouch is two to three times cheaper than a carton brick and is also significantly cheaper than plastic or glass bottles and aluminum or metal plastic cans.

The Prepac pouch can be dropped from a height of 2 meters or stepped on by a person weighing 80 kilos and it won't burst.

While not reusable, the pouch is made from a film which can be recycled or incinerated without pollution or without emitting any toxic gases, only water vapor and carbon dioxide.

An empty pouch leaves a negligible volume of waste.

Imagine a case of plastic and glass empty one-liter bottles and how much space it takes up compared with 20 flat and empty pouches.

The pouch ensures the product inside has absolutely no contact with the outside environment through a specially developed film, which blocks light and oxygen and allows the product to be kept for six months.

The pouch, Guilleux observes, is also easy to store in the refrigerator.

Guilleux boasts that Prepac has the fastest filling machine in the market, no competitor, and adjusting filling volume can be done in a matter of seconds.

Prepac's main market is the pasteurized milk industry, which accounts for 80 percent of sales. About 20 percent of Prepac machines end up filling fruit juice, water and non-food products like engine oil.

He projects that the water market will be a growth area for plastic pouches.

"A few years ago we developed a machine for filling pouches with water. Water can be kept for one year without bad taste or smell," Guilleux discloses. "So this can be very interesting for the Philippines because you have a very large water market.

The DOST has acquired one simple fruit juice filling machine from Prepac, he says.

Plastic future

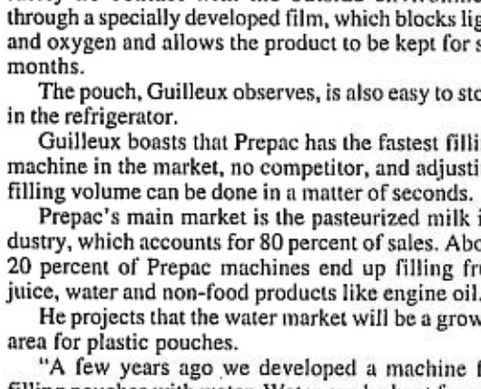
One thing that seemed a very big deal in the packaging industry in France was the emergence of plastic as an alternative option to glass. Publicly listed French firm Sidel, one of the world's largest manufacturers of bottling machines, stirred a big debate when it developed machines to make plastic bottles for beer makers,

Holding an ice cold plastic beer can or beer bottle can happen, but that experience could last only 20 seconds. Plastic doesn't stay cool, unfortunately.

That's one drawback the French group will have to tackle. It, however, has already put a big amount of investments in a process known as Actis, Amorphous Carbon Treatment on Internal Surface.

Unveiled in 1999, it was designed to meet the demands of brewing companies searching for: plastic packaging that would retain beer's carbonation and prevent its oxidation, that was easy to mass produce

PACKAGING/ B5



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Mr. Nigel Mayne, Worldsites President

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Manila
Dates & Times;
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Mon,Sept 17, at 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm
Tues,Sept 18, at 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm
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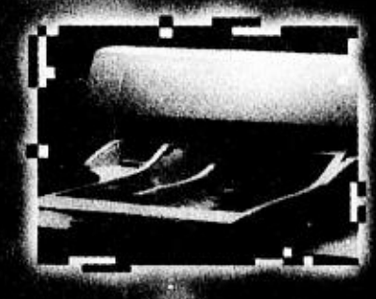
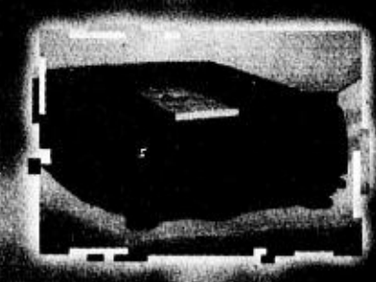

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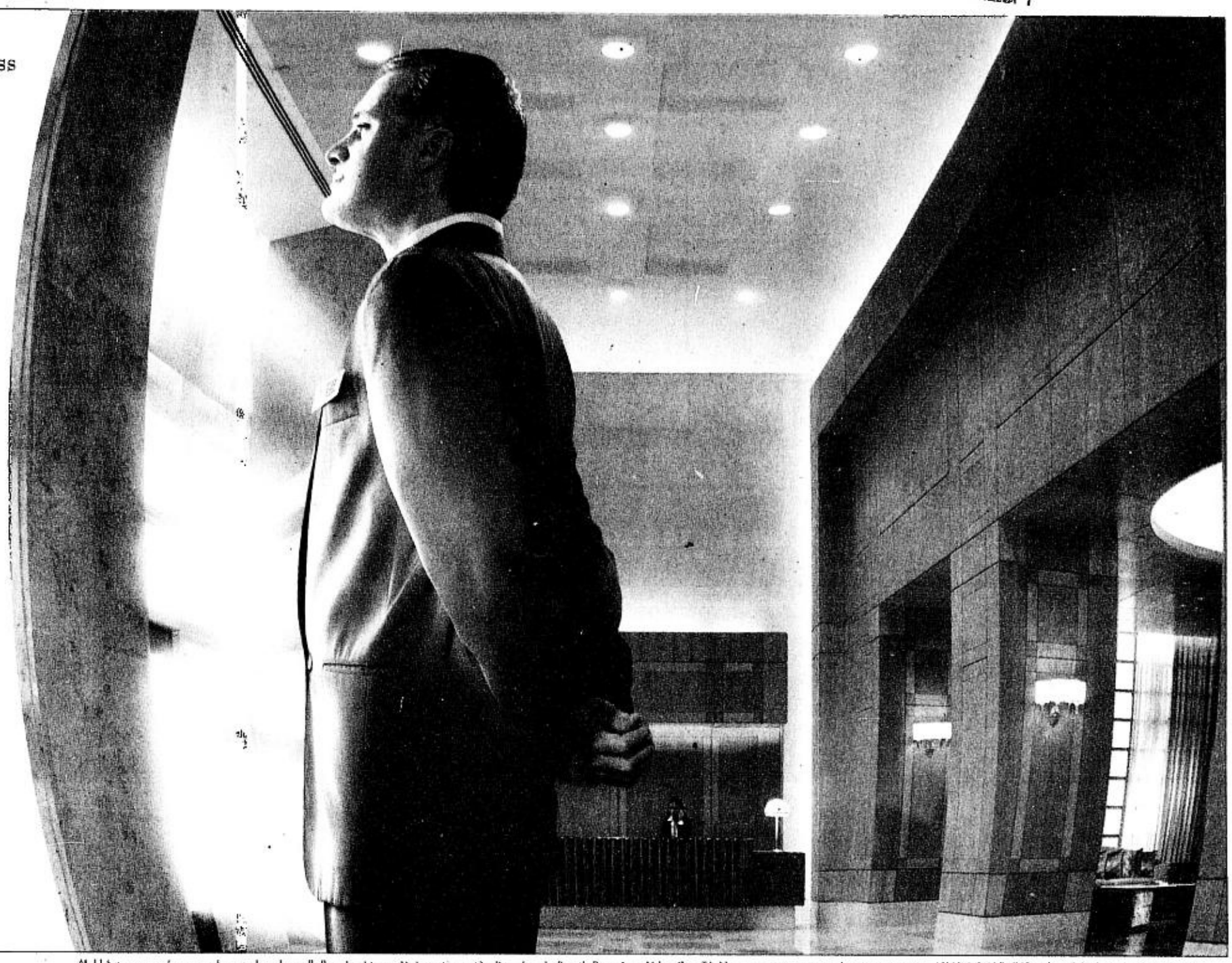
Packaging the French way

(Story on page B7)

PERRIER Vittel uses plastic for its packaging requirements.

Can A Building Be Breathless With Anticipation?



This building lies still in almost unbearable suspense, waiting for life to stir within it. Floors waiting for footsteps. Opulence waiting to be enjoyed. Service awaiting whims and wishes to please.

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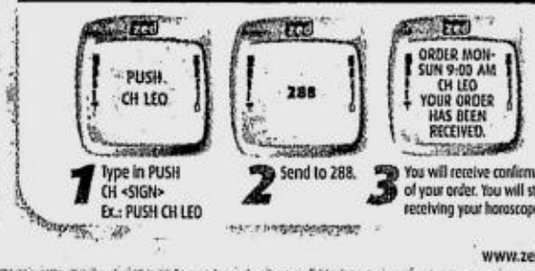

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Location: Los Baños, Laguna

Job Requirements: Provide ongoing maintenance and troubleshooting for an existing web-based database application. Make periodic updates and enhancements to the system. Provide user support and training for the system.

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Location: 6 positions available in Luzon, 2 in the Visayas, and 2 in Mindanao

Job Requirements: To begin, recruit 10-15 small businesses in a specified geographical location to act as Agencies in a start-up business. Provide initial and ongoing training of Agencies in using a web-based financial application. Regularly visit all Agencies to insure smooth operation, conformance to procedures and excellent customer service.

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3 Accounting Clerk	Minimum 2-3 years experience in accounting works Preferably Female
1 Architect	Minimum 2-3 years experience in Drafting and Design works Preferably Female
1 Civil Engineer	Minimum 3-5 years experience in subdivision development

For Pampanga assignments.

All interested applicants are adviced to apply in person at our Head Office located at Angeles-Magalang Road, Pandan, Angeles City or call our Administrator on these numbers: 887-4142 to 46.

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- ☑ Familiarity with tanker vessels is an advantage

Qualified applicants are requested to apply in person with a detailed resume, most recent I.D. picture, NBI Clearance, transcript of records, Training and previous employment certificates at:
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List of Vacant Position

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Write or call: Personnel Section *(not later than Sept. 17, 2001)*
Laguna Lake Development Authority
Rizal Provincial Capitol Compound,
Pasig City

Tel. No. 638-5332
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Cebu - September 14 (Friday) Midtown Hotel; begins at 9 a.m. and again at 6 p.m.
San Fernando, La Union - September 17 (Monday) Oasis Country Resort; begins at 9 a.m.
Baguio - September 17 (Monday) CAP Building; begins at 6 p.m.
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Executive Director, Shared Services
Ascension Health
4130 Lake Forest Dr. E.
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check our web site at //www.ascensionhealth.org/

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◈TRAINORS◈
M/F, 21-28 y/o; graduate of a four-year course preferably Mass Comm., BS Education, Business course; with excellent oral and written communication skills; must be good in Public Speaking; highly computer literate; can handle pressure and can adapt to different situations; must be willing to be assigned in Metro Manila, in the province and/or in depressed areas.

◈COORDINATORS◈
M/F, 21-35 y/o; graduate of a Business course; with 3-5 yrs sales and marketing experience must be proficient in oral and written communication; computer literate; must be flexible, can handle pressure and willing to do field works.

◈CORPORATE PRESENTORS◈
M/F, 21-35 y/o, graduate of a four-year course preferably Mass Comm.; with relevant work experience in similar capacity; excellent in oral and written communication skills and must be good in Public Speaking; computer literate; must be flexible, can handle pressure and willing to be assigned to field works.

◈PERSONNEL OFFICER/SUPERVISOR◈
M/F, 30-40 y/o; a graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science/Studies or Human Resource Management; a Master Degree is an advantage; with minimum of 3 yrs. experience in similar capacity handling all facets of HR works.

◈ FIELD AUDITORS◈
M/F, not more than 40 y/o; graduate of BS in Accountancy and must be a CPA; with at least 2 years relevant work experience.

◈ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK◈
Female, 25-30 y/o; single; graduate of four-year course with at least 2-3 years work experience; organized, assertive, and quick-minded; can deal with deadline-oriented environment. Highly computer literate with good typing skills.

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M/F, 21-35 y/o; graduate of Business Management, Marketing, Advertising or Mass Comm.; proficient in oral and written communication; with relevant work experience.

◈EDITOR/ASST. EDITOR/EDITORIAL STAFF◈
M/F, not over 35 y/o; holder of Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, Mass Comm. or English Comm. Arts; preferably with background in Business Administration Management; computer literate; creative, has keen eyes for details and must have relevant working experience in publication.

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Male, not more than 27 y/o; must be a graduate of Comp. Scie./Com. Eng'g. or ECE; with at least 3-yrs. relevant work experience in the following applications: SQL Server 7 or 2000, Microsoft Access 2000 or XP Visual Basic, Internet Development, JAVA ASP, Crystal Report Version 6, knowledge in Database Administration & Computer programming an advantage, Windows Operating System (1998 NT / 2000 Professional). Proven ability to work with a team/ long hours and can work under pressure.

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Male, not more than 27 y/o, must be a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Comp. Scie. / Comp. Eng'g. With 2-3 years in-depth experience in web development using Microsoft Technologies: ASP, IIS, VB Script: Access, SQL Server, Visual Interdev/Ultradev. Strong knowledge in HTML and JAVA Script Hardcoding as well as Cross-browser Development. Proven ability to work with a team/ long hours and can work under pressure.

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Please submit your resumé/curriculum vitaé with three references and their complete contact details to:

THE HEADMASTER, Brent International School Baguio
Mail : P.O. Box 35, Baguio City 2600
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Those qualified will undergo sales training prior to field assignment. Mail your Application Letter, Resumé/Biodata, Brgy. Clearance, Transcript of Records with 2"x2" colored photo to : **The Marketing Director, P.O. Box 436 Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila 1502, Philippines.**

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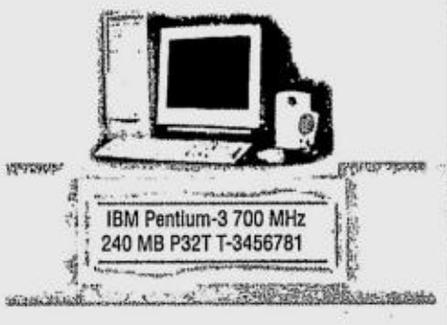

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- Joint Venture
- Colleges

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Interested applicants are requested to apply in person on September 10-12, 2001. Bring your resumé with picture and other related documents in the address below:

The Personnel Manager
NISSIN BRAKE PHILIPPINES CORPORATION
127 North Science Laguna Technopark Inc. Biñan, Laguna
(049) 541-1319

WORLDTEL TECHNOLOGIES INC., a distinguished contractor and consultant of high technology services worldwide needs experienced and skilled professional team in the building of Optical Network Transmission, Broadband Wireless Connectivity and Mobility Networks both in GSM and CDMA.

Worldtel needs...

1. **RF Engineers, GSM Engineers and CDMA Engineers**
   - Should have the knowledge to install and commission mobile switch center, base station (BTS) and customer premises equipment.
   - Should have experience in Point-to-Point or Point-to-Multipoint M/W (microwave) radio or Last Mile Solution (LMS) technologies and equipment.
   - RF Engineers should be knowledgeable at least one RF software engineering tool and site selection assumptions.
   - Should have basic and working knowledge in multiplexing technologies and modulation like TDMA, CDMA, GSM, LMDS and PCM.
   - Graduate of BS ECE and EE.
   - Must have a minimum two (2) years experience.
2. **SYSTEMS ENGINEER for NOC (Network Operation Center)/Administrator**
   - Should be a certified Microsoft NT Engineer or SUN SOLARIS Engineer either hardware or software.
   - Graduate of Computer Engineering, Computer Science or related IT courses.
3. **Also needed are Network Commissioning Engineers, Site Engineers, Antenna Riggers, Cable and Switch Equipment Installers**
   (see Inquirer July 22, 2001 Job Market National Edition).

Applicants are advised to send CVs in Windows 98 or 95 Word Format via email with the full name of the applicant (e.g. Juan Cruz) as file name. Applicants must indicate in CV their contact details such as office and/or residence address, telephone nos. and email address.

WORLDTEL TECHNOLOGIES INC.
E-mail address: worldtel@pacific.net.ph (preferred e-mail address)
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2. Male or Female
3. Knowledge of the Japanese language is an advantage

Bring resumé* with recent 2x2 picture*, copy of Transcript of Records* and other supporting papers.
Note: Application without any of the above requirements shall be void.

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sbma BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
SBMA Building 255, Barryman Street, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the project described below are invited to apply for Application for Eligibility and to Bid with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport, Olongapo City. Only eligible contractors will be invited to participate in the forthcoming bidding.

A. Name and Location of Project : **PROPOSED SUBIC BAY FREEPORT CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (CBD) CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (PACKAGE 1) (Magsaysay Boulevard from Rizal Highway to Intersection of Aguinaldo Street and Raymundo Street).**

B. Project Description/Scope of Works:

The proposed project shall include securing/applying of all permits, supervision, labor, materials and equipment required for the Proposed CBD Construction and Development (Package 1).

The proposed CBD Construction and Development (Package 1) includes the following:

a) Earthworks, Subbase and Basecourse preparation
b) Roads, Pavement and Sidewalks and Traffic Management
c) New and Relocation of Utilities (Sewers, Water System and Water Main, Electrical Power Supplies, Street Lighting,Telecom, Catv Lines)
d) Landscaping and Hardscaping
e) Drainage System

C. Approved Budget Cost: Php - 35.0 M

D. Required PCAB Registration and Classification/License:

PCAB Principal Qualification and Category
General Engineering "AA"

Kinds of Project and Respective Ranges
Roads, Highway Pavement, Horizontal "LA"
Structures and Bridges

E. Cost of forms for Application for Eligibility and to Bid, dates and place of issuance: Php 200.00 (non-refundable);

Issuance date: September 24 and 25, 2001 only, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Engineering Department, PWTSG, SBMA
Room 223 Building 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ

F. Deadline for submission of Accomplished Application for Eligibility to Bid: October 2, 2001, 5:00 p.m.

Address to:

ATTY. CHITO M. CRUZ
BAC Chairman/Sr. D.A. for Support Services
c/o Engineering Department
Room 222, Building 255 Barryman Road
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

G. Time and date of submission and opening of Bids, Pre-Bid Conference and Site Inspection shall be confirmed in the Notice of Eligibles.

Application for Eligibility and to Bid is open to all contractors with valid PCAB (Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board) Contractors License and Registration. Prospective bidders are required to submit a Letter of Intent and Certified True Copy of the Contractors License upon purchase of the forms for Application for Eligibility and to Bid and shall bring the original copy of the Contractors PCAB License Classification Registration for verification and authentication purposes.

Bid Documents shall be issued only to the eligible contractors duly notified by SBMA in writing upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.

All particulars relative to the eligible process, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the latest provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations as Amended.

The SBMA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **CHITO M. CRUZ**
BAC Chairman/Sr. D.A. for Support Services

(PDI -- Aug. 26, Sept. 3 & 9, 2001)

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Body type : Refrigerated/Insulated/Closed Vans
Contract Period: November 02, 2001 - December 31, 2001

For particulars, please call or visit:

FOR MARIKINA PLANT — LORENZO Y. CINCO
FOR LAGUNA DEPOT — ERNESTO S. GAÑA

at the following address and telephone numbers:

PUREFOODS-HORMEL COMPANY, INC.
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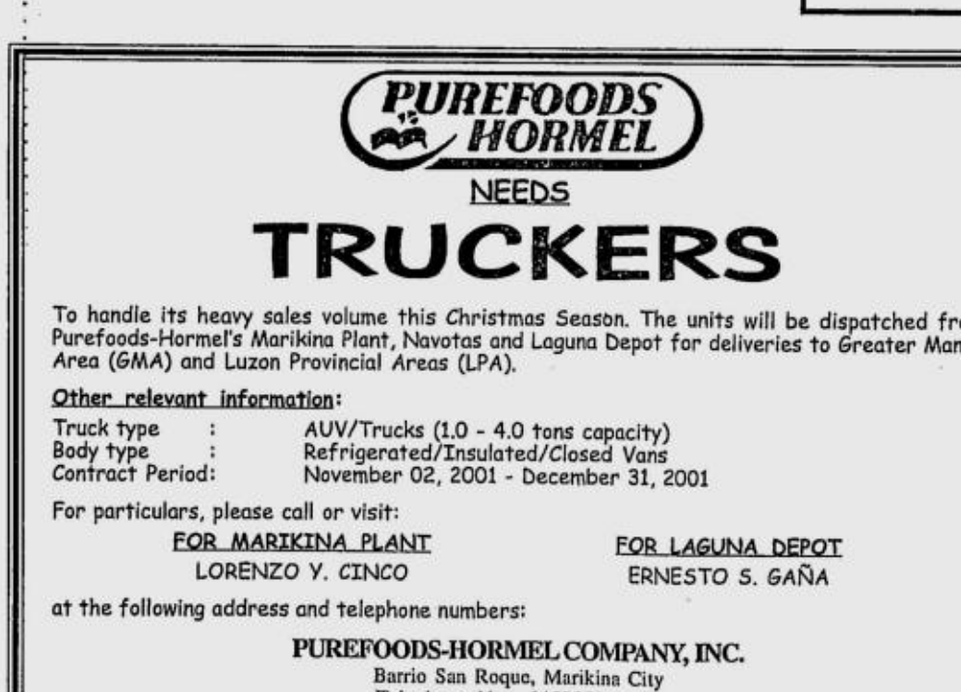

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The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want...
Though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil for Thou art with me.
Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
Psalm 23

DELTA FAUCET COMPANY

mourns the demise of its
General Manager, Asia-Pacific.

Edwin Dorotayo Deuna

July 26, 1961 – September 5, 2001

His devoted wife, **Vilma de Vera Deuna**; loving children, **Paolo Alberto, Marion Joshua, Sarah Vil,** and **Ephraim;** doting mother, **Gloria Deuna;** dear brothers and sister, Ronaldo, Romeo and Zerina; relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at no. 91 National Highway, Purok 6, New Cabalan, Olongapo City.

Interment will be on September 12, 2001 at 9 o'clock in the morning at the Olongapo Memorial Park.

We, the
Officers and Members of the
PHILIPPINE NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
PHILIPPINE PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
and the
PHILIPPINE BOARD OF PSYCHIATRY
condole with the
bereaved family of the late

PROF. GILBERTO L. GAMEZ, M.D., DPBP, FPNA, FPPA

Founding Member and Past President, PNA
Founding Member and Past President, PPA
and
Former Chairman, Philippine Board of Psychiatry

who passed away on

September 2, 2001 in Fort Myers, Florida, USA.

Necrological services will be held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church Shrine, New Manila, QC on September 13, 2001, 9:00 a.m.

DR. ALFREDO L. ALIASAS

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 1, 2001
at the age of 65 in CA, USA

We will be forever thankful to God for giving us **EDONG** - a good husband, **PAPA** - a loving father, **LOLO DOC** - a doting grandfather and **FREDDIE** - a caring friend and relative.

His bereaved family, request those whose lives have been touched by their loved ones to pray for the eternal rest of his soul as he is born into Eternal Life.

His remains will lie in state at his residence in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya from Sunday, September 9, 2001 to Friday, September 14, 2001.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 15, 2001 at the Solano Catholic Cemetery after the 7:30 a.m. Mass.

FLOR CASUSO ORACION

of Don Antonio Heights, Quezon City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on September 8, 2001
at the age of 59.

Her bereaved husband **Atty. Raul Ma. Oracion**; siblings **Hector** and **Malou, Fe** and **Victor Martinez, Amor, Sally** and **Jose, Jr.**; other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Chapel 8, Southwing of La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 12, 2001 at Himlayang Pilipino after the 8:00 AM Mass at La Funeraria Paz.

NIEVES TABIJE LISING

SEPTEMBER 24, 1910 — SEPTEMBER 7, 2001

Her children **Arturo, Nenita** and **Salvador**; son-in-law **Norman**; daughters-in-law **Judith** and **Elsie** and grandchildren request relatives, friends and pious readers to say a prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Park Chapel, Marikina City. Interment will follow after the 10:00 a.m. Mass on September 11, 2001.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

CONSTANCIO E. CASTAÑEDA

May 13, 1913 – August 22, 2001

wish to convey our sincere gratitude and appreciation to those who, in various ways, expressed their condolences during our time of bereavement.

Your kindness has been a source of strength and much comfort. May the good Lord bless you.

SAMUEL GABRIEL BANZON REYES

Peacefully joined his Creator
on September 7, 2001 at the age of 23.

His bereaved father **ROBERTO R. REYES**; mother **LUCILLE BANZON REYES**; brothers **DAVID, DENNIS, ROBBY, MACKY,** and **CHUCKY**; grandmother **ESPERANZA PINEDA BANZON**; aunts, uncles and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla de San Francisco, Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park.

Interment at the crypt will be on Tuesday, September 11, 2001 after the 2:30 p.m. Funeral Mass.

"Happy are those who have died in the Lord; let them rest from their labors for their good deeds go with them."
Rev. 14.13

GILBERTO L. GAMEZ M.D.

Professor and meritus, University of Sto. Tomas

Peacefully joined his Creator in Fort Myers, Florida, U.S.A. on September 1, 2001.

His bereaved wife **Luz (Nellie)**; children **Gerry** and **Marivic, Jun, Ding, Angel, Mike, Tina** and **Glen, Susan** and **Jay**; grandchildren **Katrina, Angela, Mimi, Justin, Isabella, Sofia, Vincent**; sister **Consuelo del Pan**; sisters-in-law **Aurora A. Mendoza, Herminia A. Diño**, and **Nenita A. Gilmore** request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains will arrive on Tuesday, 6:00 a.m. and will be brought immediately to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at Doña Juana Rodriguez Street, Quezon City.

Mass and Necrological Services will be held at 9:00 a.m., September 13, 2001 at the Mt. Carmel Chapel and at 2:00 p.m. same day, at the Santissimo Rosario Parish Church, UST Chapel.

Message of Thanks

Perhaps you were...
... one of those who made sure DAHLIA and Marcia made it from Manor Hotel to V. Luna (AFP Medical Center);
... one of those who touched them with your expert care while they were there;
... one of those who stormed Heaven with loving prayers; and stood by us when we accepted God's will for them;
... one of those who strengthened us with inspiring messages and beautiful music, called us up or wrote reassuring words;
... one of those who came from far and near to comfort us with your presence;
... one of those who saw our every need, gave assistance, made the work easier for us;
... one of those who gave flowers to let us see the beauty despite the pain; and perhaps you were one of those who finally bid DAHLIA and MARCIA adieu.

... THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

... For the LOVE OF GOD was so much felt by us through you at the time when everything seemed so dim.

Bong, Malikh and Gaya Catedral

Hark, KZ, Jeujeu and Kim Pearl Jiz de Ortega

Together with the families of

Dahlia Contreras-Catedral (November 13, 1965 - August 21, 2001)

Marcia Leonero-Jiz de Ortega (September 4, 1967 - August 18, 2001)

Nasipit, Agusan del Norte

IN PRECIOUS MEMORY
ON THE FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

PROF. SERGIO R. ISBERTO

September 9, 2000

Masses will be offered today, September 9, 2001, at the following churches:
Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church ... 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Camerino Street, Project 4, Quezon City
St. Joseph Church ..... 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Project 2 & 3, Quezon City
His family requests relatives and friends to remember him with prayers.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

OUR DEARLY BELOVED

KEVIN B. PRIETO

was called by our loving Father
on September 7, 2001 at the age of 10.

His loving parents **Ramon (Chito)** and **Melanie Elizabeth (Barbie)**; brothers **Kyle** and **Kurt**; grandparents **Quintin** and **Marcela Prieto, Estrella** and **Manuel Li**; aunts and uncles, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Ateneo Grace School Chapel, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City.

Holy Masses will be offered daily. Interment will be on Wednesday, September 12, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 AM Mass at the Ateneo Grade School Chapel.

GUNTHER HANS B. DALUMPINES

"Deutsche"

Has rejoined the Father
On September 4, 2001
at the age of 23
In Jerusalem, The Holy Land

His parents **Mike** & **Vio**; brothers **Frenchy** & **Mikey**; sister **Svet**; grandparents **Mars** & **Flor Baruis**; relatives, friends and the Ateneo De Manila University community invite you to the daily celebration of The Mass at 6:30 p.m. at the Ateneo College Chapel.

Deutsche's remains lie in state at the Ateneo High School Chapel, Loyola Heights, Quezon City and will be at the Ateneo College Chapel from Monday onwards.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 12, 2001 at 11:00 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
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CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
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Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5694
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Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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We're also looking for dealers who are willing to invest their time, a small parcel of land and some money in our dream.

We invite you to attend the applicants' orientation on the following dates:

For Tagaytay City :
September 13, 2001, 10:00 am.
Days Hotel, Aguinaldo Highway,
Silang Crossing, Tagaytay City
Contact Mr. Frazer Aleta at 0918-9092116

For Fairview Q. C.:
September 12, 2001, 10:00 am.
31st Floor, Urban Bank Plaza, corner Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., and
Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City.
Contact Ms. Marj Reyes at 0918-9143721

For other inquiries, call TOTALFINAELF PHILIPPINES CORPORATION and look for Ms. Cheen de Mesa of the Retail Division at (02) 849-0701.

IT'S OUR NATURE TO CARE.

TOTAL

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sbma

SBMA DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
SBMA Bldg., 255, Barryman St., Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
TEL. NOS. 6347 252-4214/4124 FAX NO. 6347 252-4284

2004

INVITATION TO BID
FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED DISPOSABLE/ SURPLUS AND OTHER SCRAP MATERIALS "AS IS, WHERE IS"

I. ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION — SCHEDULE OF BIDDING

Lot 1)	Abandoned finished products & other properties by Korea Subic-Manufacturer of fishing rods at NavMag, SBMA	September 27, 2001, 2:00 PM
Lot 2)	2 x Unserviceable generator trains, transformer & other scrap materials located at Bldg. 8325 yard	September 27, 2001, 2:30 PM
Lot 3)	14 x Condemned buildings at Airport vicinity for demolition & clearing	September 27, 2001, 3:00 PM
Lot 4)	Unserviceable furniture & other scrap materials stockpiled in 10 IGLOOS at NavMag Group 2	September 27, 2001, 3:30 PM

II. Buyers are requested to submit the following Pre-qualification documents at the Procurement and Property Management Department (PPMD), Room 201, 2nd Floor, Bldg. 255, SBMA, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.
1. Certificate of Accreditation as Scrap Hauler from Trade & Tourism Group or PPMD, SBMA.
2. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR 2000) of the bidder or copies of Audited Financial Statement of the Company and Certification of Cash Deposit by a reputable bank.

III. Deadline for submission of the Pre-Qualification Papers is on **September 13, 2001, Thursday (5:00 p.m.)**. No extension.

IV. Pre-Bid Conference and Issuance of Bid Forms (P100.00 per set) will be on **September 20, 2001, Thursday (3:00 p.m.)**.

V. Bid Bond is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to ten (10%) percent of the total bid price in favor of SBMA.

VI. Inspection will strictly be by Group on the following schedules:

Lot 1)	September 14, 2001	- 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Lot 2)	September 17, 2001	- 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Lot 3)	September 18, 2001	- 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Lot 4)	September 19, 2001	- 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

VII. For other information, inquiries and/or request for inspection, call Tel. No. (047) 252-4214/4483 (c/o Danny Sanchez).

VIII. SBMA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein or to reject/accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to SBMA.

Done this 7th day of September 2001.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO A. INOCENTES**
DA for Administration
Vice-Chairman-Disposal Committee

(PDI – Sept. 8, 9 & 10, 2001)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Official Depository Bank of the Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID FOR CONTRACT PACKAGE NO. 9-A: SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND ASSEMBLY OF TRADING DESK

All corporations registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), with extensive experience in the supply, delivery and assembly of trading desk for office buildings, are invited to apply for pre-qualification, and bidding for Contract Package No. 9-A for the new LBP Headquarters Building in Malate, Manila with the following schedule:

Issuance of Pre-Qualification Form	Pre-Qualification Conference	Issuance of Notice of Pre-qualification/ Pre-disqualification	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date
Sept. 10 to 13 2001 @ 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Sept. 14, 2001 @ 10:00 AM	Sept. 26, 2001	Oct. 1, 2001 @ 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Oct. 2, 2001 @ 10:00 AM	Oct. 5, 2001 @ 10:00 AM

All interested Suppliers may obtain the Pre-qualification forms from the LBP Ad Hoc Group Office, c/o Project Management and Engineering Department (PMED), 2F LBP Building III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of P1,400.00. Only those suppliers who secured the pre-qualification documents shall be eligible to participate in the pre-qualification process.

After the pre-qualification conference, Suppliers shall be given three (3) calendar-days to signify in writing their interest to join the pre-qualification process by accomplishing the proforma Letter of Intent (LOI) included in the pre-qualification forms issued earlier. Attendance to the pre-qualification conference is among the requirements for pre-qualification.

Duly accomplished Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted to and received at the above-stated office not later than September 19, 2001, 3:00 PM, after which no documents will be accepted. All participating suppliers shall be notified in writing of the results of the pre-qualification.

Only pre-qualified suppliers may secure Bid Documents at the above-stated office/date upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

Pre-Qualification and Pre-Bid conferences will be held on the above-stated date and time at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2F, LBP Building III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Bidding shall be conducted using the two (2) envelope system (envelopes "A" and "B") to be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 AM on October 5, 2001 (the Bidding Date). Bidding shall be held at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2F, LBP Building III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

LBP reserves the right to change the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference and bidding date. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBP to pre-qualified bidders.

LBP likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense/loss that they may incur during the preparation of their bids, and to accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO T. HERNANDEZ
Chairman,
Sub-Committee for LBP HQ Building Project

(PDI – Sept. 8, 9 & 10, 2001)

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DATE : September 15, 2001 (Saturday) 2:00 P.M.
VENUE : PHILIPPINE TRADE TRAINING CENTER, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
TEL. NO. : 891-5686 to 89 / 891-5920 to 21
FEES : P 700 PREPAID / P 900 WALK-IN

CEBU
DATE : September 11,2001 (Tuesday) 6:30 P.M.
VENUE : WATERFRONT CEBU CITY HOTEL, SALINAS DRIVE, LAHUG, CEBU CITY
TEL.NO. : (032) 255 6673 TO 74; 254 2495; 254 2684; 256 3872 TO 73
FEES : P 700 PREPAID/P 900 WALK-IN

DAVAO
DATE : September 13, 2001 (Thursday) 6:30 P.M.
VENUE : MARCO POLO HOTEL, C.M. Recto St., Davao City
TEL. NO. : (082) 222-1351 to 52 // 222-2710 to 11
FEES : P 700 PREPAID / P 900 WALK-IN

LEGASPI
DATE : September 18, 2001 (Tuesday) 6:30 P.M.
VENUE : HOTEL LATRINIDAD, Rizal St., Legaspi City 4500
TEL. NO. : (052) 820-6168 // 480-3946 // 245-5641 // (0918) 910-2994
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ASSESSMENT WILL BE CONDUCTED BY OUR AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND IMMIGRATION SPECIALIST

Mr. MARK F. RILEY
Registered Migration Agent No. 9579222
• Former Senior Migration Officer of Australian Embassy in Manila
• 15 years in Australian Migration Practice
• Experienced New Zealand Immigration specialist

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL OR VISIT US @
IMMIGRATION NETWORK SERVICES, INC.
Room 402-B Vicente Madrigal Bldg., 6793 Ayala Ave., Makati City Tel. Nos. 891-5686 to 89 / 891-5920 to 21
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sbma PROCUREMENT AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
TEL. NOS. (047) 252-4270*4214*4124 FAX NO. (047) 252-4284

September 5, 2001

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY ("SBMA"), through the Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC") invites duly registered Firms, Suppliers/ Contractors to pre-qualify and bid for the following:

AUDIO SOUND SYSTEM WITH COMPLETE ACCESSORIES
LIGHTING FIXTURE FOR THE PROPOSED PAVILLION-BOARDWALK
ONE (1) UN. DEFIBRILLATOR WITH COMPLETE ACCESSORIES
ONE (1) UN. ELECTRO CARDIO GRAPH (ECG) MACHINE

The following documents are necessary for the pre-qualification as a supplier/ contractor for the above-mentioned public bidding:

1. Article of Incorporation
2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
3. Certificate of Registration with the Dept. of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
4. Valid Mayor's Permit
5. VAT Registration
6. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (certified true copy in sealed envelope)
7. Presence of Exclusive/Authorized/Sole Distributorship Agreement with reputable firms in the industry, document duly notarized at the point of origin
8. Company PROFILE
9. List of Product
10. List of Clients
11. Non-refundable Pre-qualification fee (P200.00)

Submission of the above pre-qualification documents is until 5:00 p.m. of **September 14, 2001** (Friday), at the BAC Secretariat, PPMD Office, Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Firms qualified by the SBMA and dates for the Pre-Bid Conference and Submission/Opening of Bids shall be announced through Bid Bulletin.

The SBMA assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any firm for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of pre-qualification requirements. The decision of the SBMA on who are qualified to bid shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) ATTY. RIZAL V. KATALBAS JR
Secretary, BAC

(PDI – Sept. 7, 8 & 9, 2001)

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3 killer diseases . . (From page B14)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P., Diliman, Quezon City

AMENDED INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the:
Supply of:
62 BRAND NEW AGRICULTURAL FARM TRACTORS AND FARM IMPLEMENTS

AGRICULTURAL FARM TRACTORS

Specification	No. of Units
115 HP	44
105 HP	7
100 HP	1
90 HP	10

FARM IMPLEMENTS

Item Description	No. of Units
Mouldboard Plows	45
Disc Plows	6

Total Budget : Php 117,800,000.00
To be delivered to different points in the Philippines

Only pre-qualified bidders as of **September 21, 2001** shall be allowed to participate in the Public Bidding to be held on **September 27, 2001** at the SRA Social Hall at 9:00 AM.

Pre-qualification forms shall be issued starting **September 10, 2001** and the deadline for the submission of said requirements shall be on **September 13, 2001**.

A pre-qualification conference shall be held on **September 11** at 2:00 p.m. at the SRA Social Hall.

The list of qualified bidders shall be released on **September 21**. Thereafter, bid forms shall be issued for a non-refundable cost of Php500.00 each.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on **September 24** at the SRA Social Hall at 9:00 AM.

All bids must be accompanied by bid bonds in the amount of 5% of the total cost of the tender or offer—either in cash, Manager's check or surety bond accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

For further inquiries, please call:

THE SECRETARIAT
SRA Bidding and Awards Committee
Tel. No. 929-68-37

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality or defect therein, and to accept any or all offers that may be considered most advantageous to the SRA.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI – Sept. 8, 9 & 10, 2001)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Regional Trial Court Judge Amelia F. Dy of Branch 213, Mandaluyong City recently sentenced Mrs. Evelyn Ignacio Ocampo residing at Room No. 301 Court Felicidad Condominium, 501 Wack Wack Road, Mandaluyong City **for the crime of ESTAFA**.

Mrs. Evelyn I. Ocampo was sentenced to suffer the penalty of seventeen (17) years, four (4) months and one (1) day to twenty (20) years of Reclusion Temporal in its maximum and is ordered to pay the complainant the amount of P400,000.00 plus legal interest.

An Alias Warrant of Arrest was issued against Mrs. Evelyn I. Ocampo and no bail was recommended for her temporary release by Judge Amelia F. Dy.

Any person who has any information leading to the early arrest of Mrs. Evelyn I. Ocampo can notify the nearest Police Station, the Chief PNP, Camp Crame, Q.C., the Director N.B.I., Manila or call tel. no. 722-8107

(PDI–Sept. 9, 2001)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of Francisca E. Teodoro has been extrajudicially settled per Doc. No. 136; Page No. 28; Book No. I; Series of 2001 of Notary Public Marvin Mesia of Mandaluyong City (PDI-Aug. 26, Sept. 2 & 9, 2001)

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3) Res. T'house-2sty,2BR,1TB/Lot 4-E, Evalle St, Kaligayahan, Nova LA-44.17 FA-70.39	1,070,000
4) Res. T'house - 2 sty/Unit 4J, Villasor T'homes, Faustino St., Isadora Hills Subd LA-39.97 FA-75	1,140,000
SAN JUAN	
5) Res'l. Condo. 2BR, 2TB, w/ maid's rm. & parking / Unit 1203 Platinum 2000, Annapolis St., Greenhills FA-113.6 PS-12.6	4,640,000
TAGUIG	
6) Res. H&L - 2sty w/ roofdeck, 5BR, 2TB w/ garage / 6 Elizco Rd. Bo. Tipaz, Taguig LA-181 FA-321.15	2,980,000
KALOKAN	
7) Res'l. H&L / Kalantas Street, Amparo Village, Bo. Novaliches LA-369 FA-163.4	1,745,000
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11) Res.Apartment- 6door unfinished - 2sty., L6 & L8, B7, Rd Lot 9, Via Firenze St., Romanville Subd, Bgy.Tagapo, Sta.Rosa LA-220 FA-345.42	2,105,000
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13) Res.T'house-1T&B/L19 B3, J. Laurel St,Villa Elisa Subd, Anabu II, Imus LA- 66.5 FA- 32	325,000
14) Res.T'house-1T&B/L26 B5,16 Osmena St,Villa Elisa Subd, Anabu II,Imus LA-66.5FA-32	325,000
15) Res. T'house-1sty,2BR,1TB/L13 B2, Faith St, Good Family Homes, Anabu LA-88 FA-36	380,000
16) Res.T'house-1sty w/ mezz./ L27,B17 4th St., Alfonso Vill, Alapan, Imus LA-38 FA-46.7	275,000
17) Res.T'house-1sty/L7B4,Dao Dr, ACMSherwood Homes,AnabuII-B,ImusLA-47.5FA-30.78	295,000
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Sunday STYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO Editor

MEMBERS of the Samahang Magkakapatid sa Pasadena do their morning exercise.

Growing old in familiar surroundings

BY ROWENA C. BURGOS
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

For as long as possible, most old people want to stay in their homes and communities and remain active

FOR FIVE years now, Rebecca Estrada, 63, has been selling vegetables and various home-cooked dishes at her store on Pasadena Drive, San Juan. Business has been doing well, she says, that in the evening, leftovers are just given to her neighbors. "*Para huwag masayang at ayaw ko ring magtinda nang hindi sariwa.*"

Gorgonia Coprado, 70, owns a *sari-sari* store beside Estrada's. They are not

GROWING/ p.C2

SOPHIA Golpo, 64, makes native delicacies, which are sold to factories and the San Juan municipal hall.

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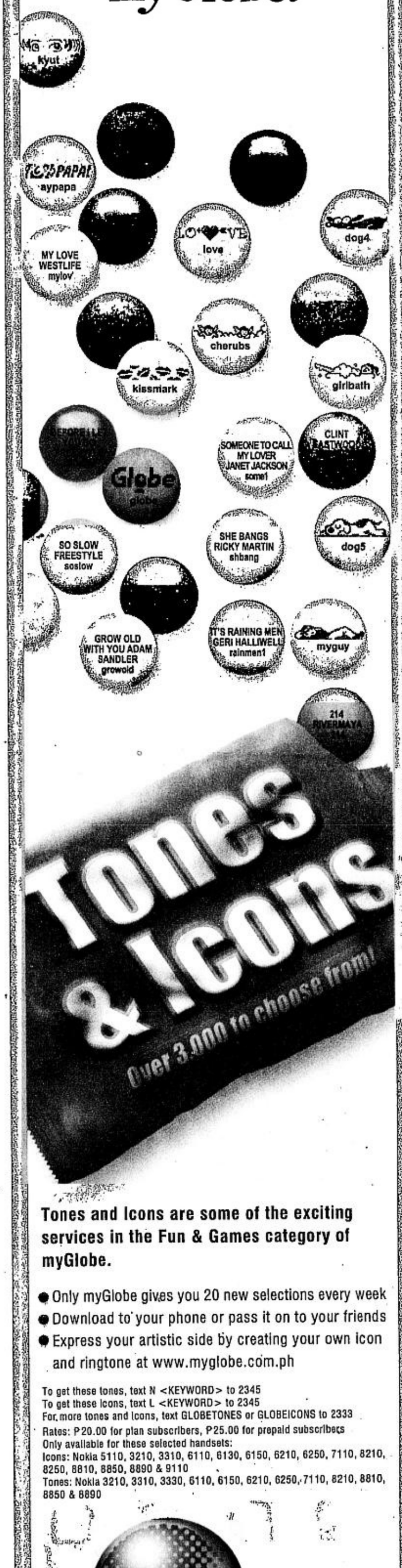

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Growing old in familiar surroundings

(From page C1)

competitors but good friends. Coprado says the meager earnings from her 10-year-old undertaking have been a big help in providing school allowance to her six grandchildren.

Another neighbor, Sophia Golpo, 64, has, for the past 20 years, been making native delicacies, such as *bibingkang kamote*, which she sells at the San Juan municipal hall and nearby factories.

Other older persons on Pasadena Drive meet every week at the home of Presing Capistrano, 72, to make pillows that are sold at the two stores of the Coalition of Services of the Elderly (Cose) in Cubao.

Estrada, Coprado, Golpo, Capistrano and other old persons aged 55 and above in Pasadena Drive comprise the Samahang Magkakapatid sa Pasadena (SMP). Founded in 1992, SMP was organized by Cose through Rodel Rimpillo, who is now a priest assigned in Daet, Camarines Norte, and Hal Pastor, an ex-seminarian.

The Quezon City-based Cose, a non-government group working with older people mostly in Metro Manila's urban poor communities, bats for a community-based approach that allows senior residents to organize and help each other through self-help programs.

Government policies often ignore older people in the developing world despite their rapid growth in number. HelpAge International (HAI), a global network of nonprofit organizations working with and for disadvantaged older people to help them achieve lasting improvement in the quality of their lives, says that part of the problem may be traced to the lack of data on issues about older people.

REBECCA Estrada, 63, sells vegetables and home-cooked food in her own store.

GORGONIA Coprado, 70, tends her own *sari-sari* store.

PRESING Capistrano, 72, president of SMP

PILLOW-MAKING is one of SMP's income-generating projects.

In July, HAI released a 52-page report titled "Aging in My Own Place," a 15-country survey of home-care programs for older people in Asia. It tackles the effects of the changing demographics in the region and what can be done to improve the quality of life of the elderly and their families.

In the Philippines, only over 420,000 out of 3.7 million older persons enjoyed retirement benefits in 1998. The rest were ineligible, not being members or beneficiaries of either the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) or the Social Security System (SSS). GSIS supported more than 100,000 old-age pensioners who received monthly pensions of less than P1,700 each. SSS gave benefits to almost 320,000 retirees who each got P1,200-P2,400 a month.

Most retired persons have a strong desire to be economically active and be financially independent. Those without pensions are either fully or partially dependent on their children for food, medicine and household needs, but these are often inadequately met.

"*Hindi gaanong nabibigyan ng pansin ang* elderly *ng ating gobyerno. Kaya nagpapasalamat kami sa* Cose *na tinulungan kaming maging* self-sufficient *sa pamamagitan ng mga* income-generating projects," says Capistrano, the SMP president.

Health worries

Most of the elderly worry about their deteriorating health. They usually complain about seeing, hearing, chewing and walking difficulties. Other common problems are hypertension, rheumatism and arthritis, tuberculosis, ulcers, heart problems, asthma and abdominal pains. They also complain about forgetfulness, sleeping problems and fatigue. Others suffer from anemia.

SMP members have the same problems. The group started with 23 members, which increased to 113. Then the number dropped to 60. "*Karamihan ay namatay dahil sa sakit sa puso,* breast *at* lung cancer. *Ang iba naman ay napasama sa mga na-*demolish *ang bahay*," Capistrano says.

It was in this light that St. Luke's Hospital put up the Geriatric Daycare Program, which offers medical services, lectures and workshops to the elderly. Eufemia Arroyo, 60, together with Leticia Ramirez, Erlinda Cruz, Antonia Marabella and Trinidad Coprado, attended a seminar on herbal medicines, first aid and physical exercises handled by Doctors Jeffrey Castillo and Doris Camagay.

The Cose clinic on Manhattan Street, Cubao provides medical and dental services at discounted rates. "*Napakalaking tulong ng mga* services *na ito sa amin dahil naaagapan agad ang mga may sakit*," says Arroyo who also handles SMP's morning exercises every Saturday.

Source of support

Throughout the Asia-Pacific region, the family is cited as the single most important source of support, care and comfort of the elderly. This strong cultural tradition sustains millions of older persons.

It is estimated that of the total world population of about six billion, older persons account for about 200 million. Census figures show that in 1995, some 3.7 million Filipinos were at least 60 years old, less then 6 percent of the national population then. By 2030, the number of Filipinos 60 years old or older is estimated to account for more than 13 percent of the total Philippine population.

Experts say the increase in the number of older people is due to declining birth and death rates and declining family size. Caring for older people becomes a problem as younger family members leave to work in far-off places, and women, the traditional family caregivers, join the labor force.

The care for the elderly is seen as a family responsibility unless or until the family can no longer cope. In such cases, institutional care, either in a full-time residential or day-care setting, is often seen as the only alternative—if it is available. But many older people, including SMP members, would choose to remain in their own homes if that is an option and if their quality of life can be maintained.

"*Kahit mahirap ang buhay, nakakayanan namin ang lahat ng problema basta kasama namin ang aming pamilya*," says Capistrano who adds that one's family provides care, interaction and emotional support. Living at home, she says, decreases isolation and allows continuous interaction with the members of their own community.

Even if families are facing multiple challenges to their traditional roles as caregivers, it is hoped that the home and community-based services provided by organizations like HAI and Cose will help maintain the independence and quality of life of the elderly.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

EUFEMIA Arroyo, 60, PRO of SMP, was trained to get the BP and pulse rates of community members.

MARITEL Nievera at Cabalen's eat-all-you-can, eat-all-you-want buffet table

Special dishes for grandparents

CABALEN, the eat-all-you-can, eat-all-you-want buffet restaurant never fails to come up with delicious creative dishes. For September, six all-new tasty entrées will highlight the long buffet to celebrate Grandparents Month.

Aside from the all-time favorite selections, Cabalen features *sinigang na maya-maya sa mangga,* choice cuts of red snapper in mango-flavored soup base; *adobong hipon sa taba ng talangka,* shrimp seasoned with brown garlic sautéed in crabfat for that fingerlicking taste; juicy and well-marinated *crispy duck,* zesty *kalderetang bibi;* filling yet light salad sensation *ensaladang lechon kawali;* and a real health meal starter, *halaan kalabasa* soup.

The all-day, all-night continuous buffet spread of Cabalen is only P220 for adults and P95 for kids below 4 ft plus VAT. These affordable prices make Cabalen the ideal choice for family celebrations.

Cabalen has eight branches in Metro Manila. They are located on West Avenue, QC; SM Megamall; Glorietta 3, Ayala Center; Robinsons Place Manila; Katipunan Blueridge, QC; SM North Edsa; SM City Manila; and Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall.

Bulacan shows off culinary tradition

BULACAN'S Rellenong Pabo

A DISPLAY and demonstration of Bulacan's unique cuisine will be among the highlights of Linggo ng Bulacan.

Organized by the provincial government headed by Gov. Josie Mendoza de la Cruz, the food festival will be part of the "Singkaban" (Sining at Kalinangan ng Bulacan), to be held on Sept. 13, at the Barasoain Church.

Milagros Santiago-Enriquez, the 72-year-old food anthropologist who spent most of her life studying, researching and enriching Bulacan's culinary culture, says the province of Bulacan is so diverse each town boasts of a food specialty. This is because Bulacan has a lot of town fiestas and people just love to cook and eat. The foods cannot be found in other regions or provinces, Enriquez adds.

Other activities lined up for Linggo ng Bulacan are: AgriAqua Trade Fair (Araw ng Magsasaka at Mangingisda) to be held in Tabang, Guiguinto; a pyrotechnics competition slated at the Bulacan Sports Complex, Malolos; Dangal ng Lipi, honoring prestigious Bulakeños; and Harana ng Bayan, to commemorate the 103rd year of the Malolos Congress.

Lipton Ice Tea

RESTO-ROUNDS

Delectable Dutch Delicacies at Holland Sausage

Holland is not only famous for its windmills and wooden clogs. This European country is also home to sumptuous and mouth-watering sausages – such as smoked, low-fat chicken turkey, paprika, and cheese – that can really make you salivate and ask for more.

The growing demand for good food and fast service compelled restauranteur Dino Guingona to team-up with Dutch entrepreneur Aernout Tiere to set up a dining place which boasts of various food offerings with juicy sausages as the prime ingredient. Their partnership is based on a common goal: to provide quality, delicious dishes that are truly affordable.

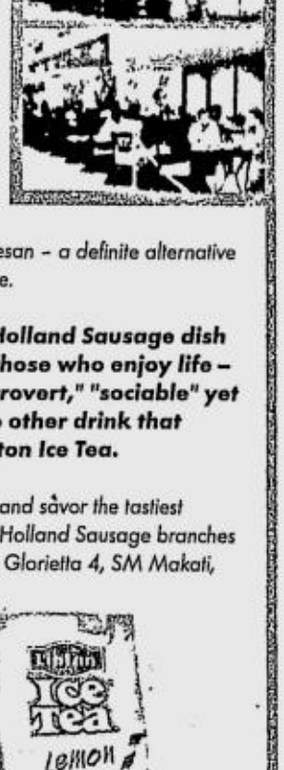
The result was Holland Sausage – one of the country's newest and dynamic dining areas for discriminating customers who want value-for-money food choices. A unique merging of the fastfood and casual dining concept where gourmet food is served fast, Holland Sausage quickly caught on with the Filipino crowd.

And what better way to capture the Pinoy taste but to formulate dishes for the local palate. Classified as "fusion food", Holland Sausage offers an eclectic array of dishes with global inspirations ranging from Asian, Italian, Filipino as well as Mediterranean cuisines. Its large servings are normally good for two persons, so the pricing is not that heavy on the budget.

Start off your day on the right foot by stepping into the nearest Holland Sausage and order the Breakfast Sampler. This morning delight comes with three different types of sausages: Paprika, Cheese and Special Holland Sausage. Two farm-fresh eggs on a bed of garlic-fried rice complete the meal that will energize you throughout the day.

For a quick yet satisfying snack, the bestselling Bacon-Chili-Cheese-Dog has a Holland hotdog wrapped in honey-cured bacon and smothered with specialty toppings like Cheezy Mushroom and Angry Chili. This delectable treat, dubbed as the "ultimate hotdog sandwich" is served on a freshly baked garlic pandesal.

Pasta lovers are most welcome to try and experience the Holland Sausage Aligue Pasta. Lavished with tiny crab roe puree with bits of Holland Sausage, this indulgence is cooked with garlic, minced ginger, tomatoes and parmesan – a definite alternative to the usual run-of-the-mill pasta dishes elsewhere.



The perfect drink to complement any Holland Sausage dish is Lipton Ice Tea. Lipton is perfect for those who enjoy life – individuals who are "innovative," "extrovert," "sociable" yet "totally responsible." Truly, there is no other drink that understands the youth better than Lipton Ice Tea.

So treat yourself to something deliciously Dutch and savor the tastiest sausages this side of the world. Visit any of the Holland Sausage branches in Landmark, SM Megamall, Shangri-La Plaza, Glorietta 4, SM Makati, Robinson's Place and Megamall Supermarket. You're sure to get a taste of the best sausages in town with that captivating Pinoy twist.

The "Resto-Rounds" series is being brought to you by Lipton Ice Tea – the perfect partner for any dining experience.

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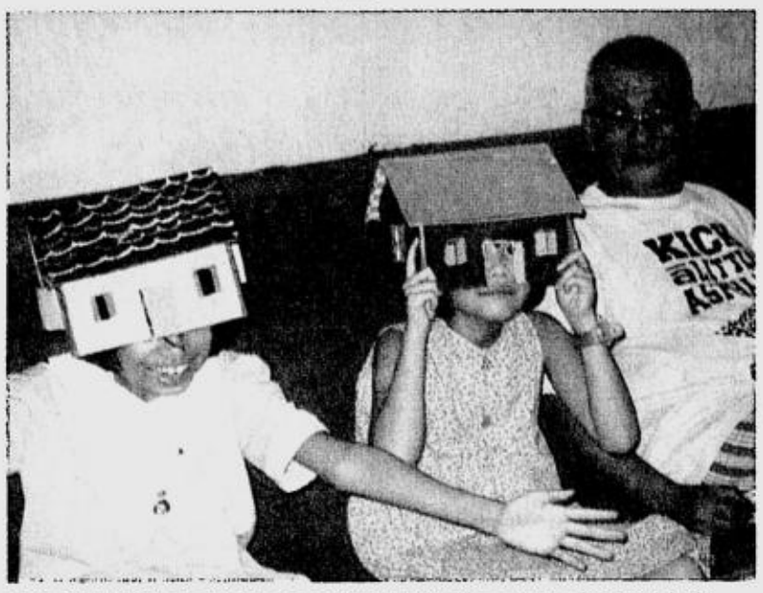


MICKEE (left) and Nana ham it up with the carton houses Lolo Tony made for them to paint.

BY EUFEMIA C. ESTRADA

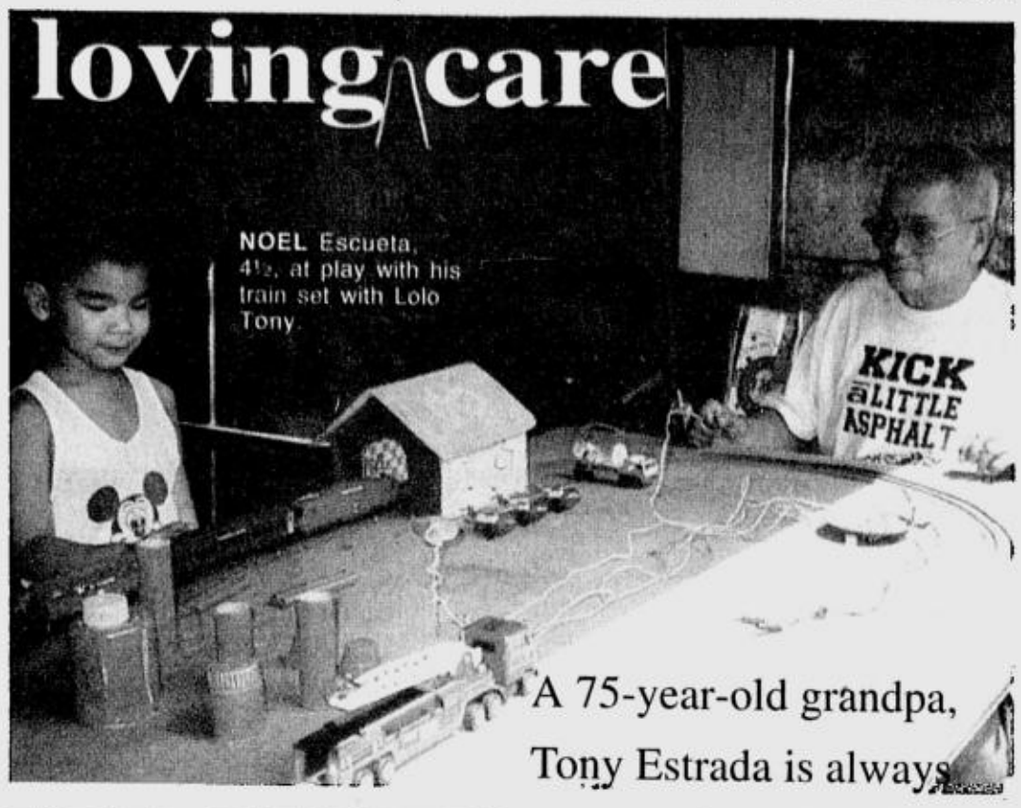
IF having grandchildren is God's way of compensating for old age, grandparents, on the other hand, are God's gift to children.

Take Tony Estrada, 75, who is "superlolo" to Mickee, 10; Nana, 7; Noel, 4½; Anton, 13 and Marijo, 11. The first three, children of Jo and Bernie Escueta, live with him in "their" house, while the last two, children of Boy and Malou Estrada, live in their own home nearby.

Tony is forever busy working on one thing or another at one end of his garage, and if it's not something that needs fixing, it's some treat for the kids.

During the power crisis when brownouts were a daily occurrence, Mickee, the baby at the time, could sleep comfortably with a battery-operated car fan to keep her cool. This early version ran on discarded batteries of Bernie, but improvements were made as the family grew to include another baby, Nana, and still another baby, Noel. The fan was later powered by a spare car battery.

When Mickee started nursery school and



NOEL Escueta, 4½, at play with his train set with Lolo Tony.

A 75-year-old grandpa, Tony Estrada is always preoccupied with things that need fixing and treats for his five grandchildren

showed a penchant for drawing and coloring, Lolo made her a desk with a lift-off top to reveal a drawer where she could put her stuff. This is kept in the lanai, while a store-bought kiddie table is in their bedroom.

When Noel was 2 years old, Lolo made him a seesaw, complete with colorful paint, where he and his sisters spent many hours going up, down, up, down. About this time, too, Noel started negotiating the stairs to the second floor so Lolo put kid-level handrails on the wall side. This was for naught, however, as Noel preferred to use the original banister.

One Christmas, Lolo surprised the two Escueta girls with a set of drums each. After a few days of unmelodious, ear-splitting drumming, the sets of drums were spirited away and eventually dispatched to relatives in San Miguel, Bulacan. On a subsequent visit to her hometown, Puring, the kids' grandmother, asked how the provincial kids liked their drums. Sheepishly, her sister admitted it was a hit with the kids, but the drums had been passed off to other unsuspecting victims, I mean, recipients. (Now you know what to give someone you love to hate.)

Patience

Undaunted, Tony, ever the inventive recyclist, spent hours making the kids another set of drums each. Each set consisted of several empty milk cans of graduated sizes, complete with pedals from plastic scraps for the big drum. When Marijo saw the drums, she wanted one, too, and Lolo made three. Predictably, after a few days of endurance on the part of the grownups, the drums were again spirited away.

When the Escueta kids started dabbling with poster paint, Lolo got hold of some empty pizza boxes (the kids always asked for pizza delivered) and made three houses for each grandchild to paint. To minimize painting on the walls of the house, which would send their Lola into hysterics, Lolo painted a big slab of wood green and set up a blackboard for the kids in the garage.

But what has proven to be Lolo and Noel's toy is the train set Tony bought for the little boy who loved to play cooking and baking with his sisters' toy pots and pans, and oven and mixer. (Their mother Jo bakes sans rival to order.)

Tony made a 4x8-ft platform of scrap lumber from son Boy's forwarding firm, painted it green and built a complex with a railroad, an airport and an oil and fuel facility.

Tony and Noel's toys went into the complex—a train set, helicopters Lolo had bought for Noel, the boys' fire truck, gasoline truck and soft-drinks truck. The fuel facility is made of plastic bottle caps and carton cylinders painted with bright orange. Tony and Noel spend many hours playing with this complex.

Another toy of grandfather and grandson is a cable car, Rigi Electric, which Noel's Tito Boy brought him from Germany. Since it is not recommended for children below 8, Noel plays with it under grandparental guidance, as he does with the railroad complex.

The beauty of this set is that it can be set up indoors or outdoors. The Mountain Station can be hung on doorknobs, window catches, wall hooks. The Valley Station can be set on the floor, a table, a chair, or the windowsill. Tony hangs the Mountain Station on a hook under an aquarium with the power station on the desk he had made for Mickee.

Noel is the type of boy who likes to match objects with like ones he comes across in book or other printed matter. He has asked his Lolo to make him a station (something like a hangar) for parking his cable car just like in the manual that comes with the kit. Lolo, of course, has obliged, using cartons for this. Noel also wanted a ladder (not included in his kit) for cable car passengers to take from the station to the cable car. Tony has made one with scrap wood and painted it yellow with black diagonal lines as in pedestrian lanes.

Anton and Marijo, on the other hand, have Lolo to baby-sit whenever their parents are not around.

How do the kids respond to all the tender loving care Lolo showers on them? Let me tell you about just one incident. When Lolo came home from the hospital after a gallbladder operation, Nana fetched him a glass of ice cold water, just as he likes it. Nana, at the time, couldn't get herself a glass of water when she wanted a drink.

This Grandparent's Day, the grandchildren are coming up with their own handmade surprises.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE Family

PIA'S ANGELS. Pia Cayetano with daughters Maxie and Nadine

Toys for more than just child's play

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

MAXITOYLAB is every thinking child's play heaven. The first and only educational and interactive toy store in the country is a treasure trove of toys, books and tapes to help make children smarter. "Children and parents are allowed to play with the products in the store and our toys are laid out on tables and floors to encourage interactive play," Pia Cayetano, mother of three (Maxie, 7, Nadine, 3 and Gabriel, 8 months), wife (to lawyer Butch Sebastian), lawyer and owner of Maxitoylab told us one afternoon at the Alabang Town Center Store.

TOOLS for the young artist

Maxitoylab is not Pia's first business venture. "I've always liked to approach things scientifically and methodically. When I became pregnant with my first child (Maxie), I read all the good books on pregnancy, child birth and child care," Pia begins. "One thing I learned was that infants did not have good eyesight at birth and what they saw best were contrasting colors, like black and white. Thus, I began to search for black and white toys."

Pia discovered that there was a dearth of black and white toys in the Philippines, so her mom, Sandra Schramm-Cayetano, made black and white posters and flashcards.

As Maxie grew, Pia's search expanded

TOYS/ p.D2

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Ngayon, mayroon ng sagot sa iyong love problems. Sa PLDT Lovenotes Hotline, you can talk to love counselors, listen to Joe's inspiring quotes, listen to the latest episodes of Lovenotes or chat with other callers. Kaya tawag na - di ka mabibigo rito.

A big blow out on the 1st anniversary of Petron Express Center, Bocaue, Bulacan

An overload of freebies and other surprises await you this weekend. Join us as we celebrate our 1st year of service to motorists down north with a blast.

Saturday, September 8

- Freebies* all day long
- Free concert* by MUZIK JIVE at 9pm

Sunday, September 9

- Freebies* all day long
- Mascot appearance from 8 to 12 noon
- Surprise activities
- Car stickering

Monday, September 10

- Freebies* all day long
- 1st monthly draw of Rev, Raffle and Roll at 2 to 4 pm

*For a minimum purchase of P150.00, motorists have a chance to pick a promo item from the Petron tambiolo and receive a free ticket to the concert.

Treats

Per DTI Permit No. 01-75, Series of 2001

PETRON

Toys for more than just child's play

KIDDIE CORNER. A reading and video nook at Maxitoylab

(From page D1)

to developmental toys and again she found that her choice was limited. "In 1996, I opened my first store, which sold Carter's baby clothes. Soon after, I opened a bigger store, Maxibear at Glorietta, and brought in infant developmental toys, which included a lot of black and white toys for newborns," Pia relates the beginnings of a business that has grown steadily over the last five years. "The moms who came to the store loved the toys and after a year, with their babies older, they would ask if there were toys for their toddlers. We did not [then] carry toys for toddlers because Maxibear was an infant specialty shop."

Pia started thinking of opening an educational toy store. But many people did not think there was a market for such. "I really felt very strongly [about the idea] since I knew that parents my age were spending thousands just to send their child to play school at a very early age. I was convinced that there were enough parents out there who wanted to expose their kids to fun yet educational material."

In October 2000, Pia opened Maxitoylab at the Alabang Town Center. Pia's 7-year-old daughter Maxie explains the concept of Maxitoylab: "In my mom's store, she sells toys that make you smart." But when she saw bubbles on one shelf, Maxie commented that bubbles did not make a child smart.

Pia had to explain that products sold at Maxitoylab were educational and designed to bring out the kids' creativity. "Some things may be fun to play with, but are also meant to encourage imaginative play. Our toys are gender-neutral, nontoxic and nonviolent," Pia adds.

BABY GENIUS. Lamaze developmental toys

Cheaper than the US

Pia has exclusive rights to distribute some of the toys. Several of them cost even less here than in the United States.

"This is because I get the toys directly from US distributors who know that I am selling in a Third World country. They give me a price lower than that for a US retailer. Some of our toys are priced 30 percent less than in the US.

The store has toys for babies and children, from newborn to 12-year-olds. Plan Toys (wooden) from Thailand are excellent for developing motor and analytical skills and dexterity. Felt Kids, a felt-made play system, is a top seller. It is great for imaginative play and interactive storytelling. The store carries complete materials for beginning artists—finger and bathtub paints, watercolor and all kinds of drawing and painting materials. For budding scientists, there is the Safari Science line that helps kids discover science and learn more about animals in a fun way. Older children and adults have the Learning Resources and Educational Insight line of products that introduces science, math and language in a friendlier fashion than that of textbooks. The Baby Genius CD, cassettes and videos will stimulate young minds through music.

"THIS is my baby brother." Maxie and Gabriel Sebastian

Traditional board games and outdoor toys can also be found at Maxitoylab. A reading corner boasts of hard-to-find books on parenting and child development, many of them recipients of awards from various parenting and consumer organizations in the US and other countries.

"Parents let their kids roam around here and sometimes leave them for an hour or two. I have heard them say that they do not mind spending on a toy or two because it is an investment on their child's mind," Pia tells us with a smile. What they do not know is that they are also investing on the mind of a less fortunate child, who gets a part of every peso that they spend in the store.

Gabriel

Pia Cayetano's girlish smile and joyful demeanor belie an inner strength. Although she is wearing many hats, she is most admirable in her role as mother to Maxie, Nadine and Gabriel.

When Pia opened Maxitoylab, she was very pregnant with her third child. In December 2000 she gave birth to Gabriel, her only son. Born with a chromosomal disorder called trisomy 13, Pia is very thankful for each day that God has given Gabriel. "Trisomy babies have a very low survival rate—ailments include heart conditions, kidney problems, recurring respiratory infections, poor eyesight, poor hearing and a whole lot more. Less than 10 percent survive beyond the age of one."

Pia considers it God's miracle that Gabriel is the way he is. "He was my biggest baby although trisomy babies are supposed to have low birthweight. He didn't have a crib and toys and his wardrobe was limited because we were told not to expect him to live," Pia narrates. Gabriel is now 8 months old and he knows that he is loved very dearly although life is not easy for him. "The things we take for granted, like breathing and eating, are difficult for Gabriel. He is very susceptible to respiratory infections and needs oxygen all the time. He has to be fed through a tube. We have not been able to bring him home. He has remained in the hospital all this time."

In spite of it all, Pia remains rooted in her faith. Everyone in the family has tried to make Gabriel's life as rich as possible. "Since he was in my tummy, he has been listening to music. To be sure he 'feels' the music, we place the speakers face down on his mattress or against his pillow. Black and white toys surround him, including flash cards his grandma made just for him," she tells us with a wistful smile. "We read to him, his sisters write him letters. Like any baby his age, he coos a lot when he is well."

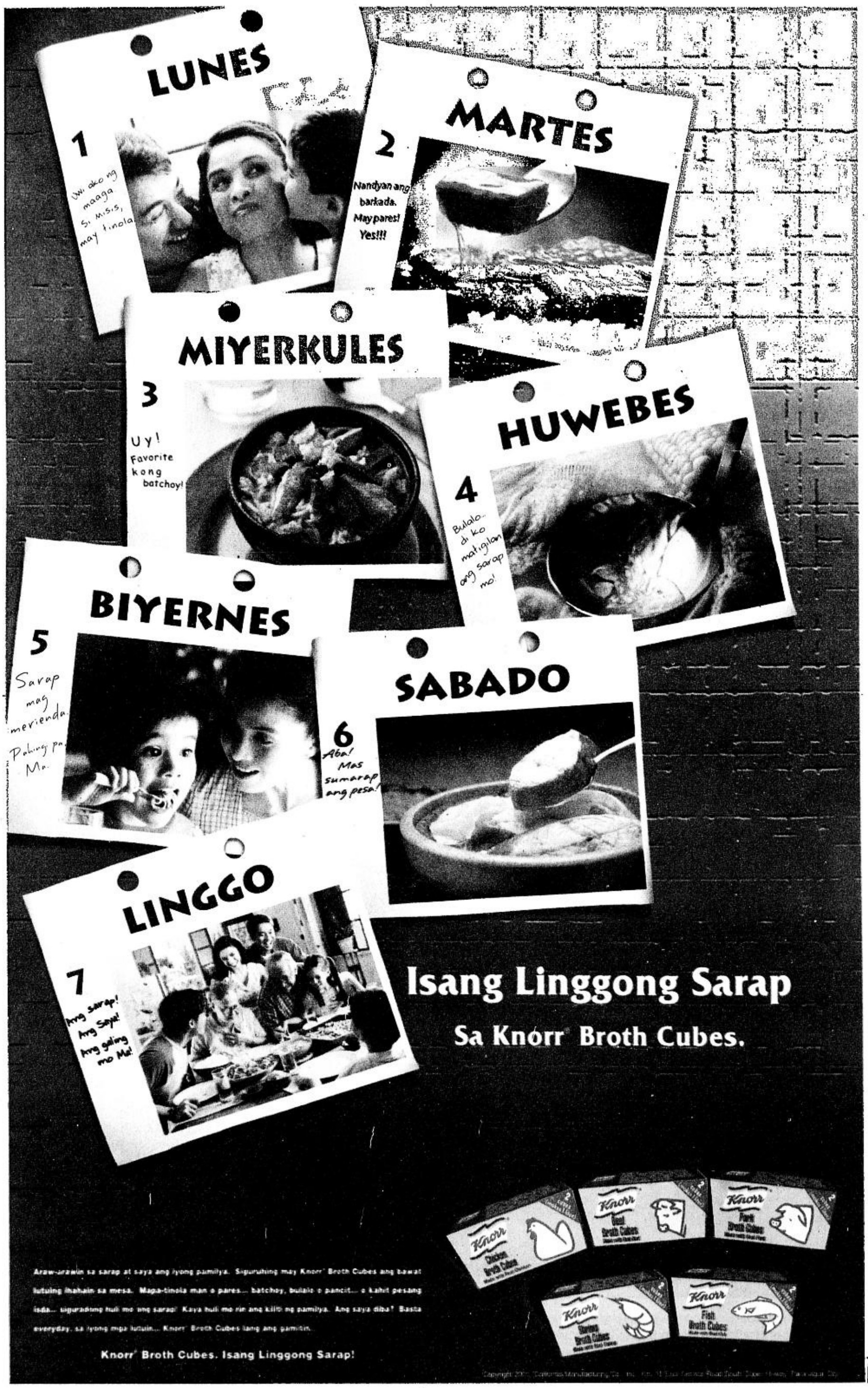
Things remain uncertain for Gabriel and each day is a gift. The preparation, the education Pia has on interactive and educational toys have certainly come in handy. "We don't know what life has in store for him. When you have a baby who is fighting for his life and stricken by one infection after another, you pray unceasingly for his health and comfort. You don't want him to suffer and yet you want one more day, another year, a whole lifetime to be with him."

As Pia continues to search for God's purpose, she thinks that perhaps God has given her Gabriel to open the door for other less privileged children. "Maybe God opened the door for me to have an educational toy store so I can help Gabriel and a lot of other kids like him. I'd like to think so," Pia explains. Part of the sales from Pia's three stores—Maxibear, First Born and Maxitoylab—goes into a fund to help children in need.

"I'd really like to be able to help more kids get a better education and see more kids reading. I would also like to provide great benefits for my employees so they can be better parents. Gabriel's fight for his life has inspired me to keep on pushing but I take things one day at a time. If Gabriel is healthy today, we are happy. Someday I hope I will have the satisfaction of knowing there are a dozen or so healthier kids or a few more 6-year-olds who learned to read because we took the time to give them something we had."

Life for Gabriel remains touch and go, but Pia says, "Even when he is gone, I will have the pleasure of knowing that this person, my son, has taught me so much and that, through him, many others will live and learn."

Email the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph



Nestlé®

BEAR BRAND®

LUPA'T BAHAY BAGONG BUHAY

9 WINNERS OF	PRELIMINARY DRAW PRIZES*	DRAW DATES	DEADLINE OF ENTRIES
1ST PRIZE	**ENTERTAINMENT SHOWCASE** JVC CTV, JVC Compo/VCD, JVC VHS player	October 12, 2001 November 9, 2001	October 5, 2001 November 3, 2001
2ND PRIZE	**KITCHEN SHOWCASE** La Germania Range, Whirlpool Microwave Oven, 8.5 cu. ft. National Refrigerator		
3RD PRIZE	**LIVING ROOM SHOWCASE** Sofa back table, living room set, center table, 2 side tables		

4 WINNERS OF	GRAND DRAW PRIZES*	DRAW DATE	DEADLINE OF ENTRIES
1ST PRIZE	**HOUSE & LOT**	December 15, 2001	December 8, 2001
2ND PRIZE	**2002 MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE GLX-GAS**		
3RD PRIZE	**HOME SHOWCASE** Combination of Entertainment, Kitchen and Living Room showcases		
5 CONSOLATION PRIZES	**LIVING ROOM SHOWCASE** Sofa back table, living room set, center table, 2 side tables		

*Actual prizes may vary from the ones shown here. All prizes are tax-free and NOT CONVERTIBLE TO CASH except for the houses and lots which have a cash equivalent of P1.5M each.

Model Houses by: Crown Asia

Napakadaling manalo!

- Write the promo title "NESTLÉ BEAR BRAND Lupa't Bahay, Bagong Buhay", your name, address, signature on the back of BEAR BRAND foil packs, boxtops or labels. All entries must have the new BEAR BRAND logo.
- Drop your entries in drop boxes at supermarkets, groceries, and sari-sari stores nearest your place of residence (within your city area) to avoid disqualification.
- There will be 2 preliminary draws in 9 sales areas: GMA, North Luzon, Central Luzon, South Luzon 1, South Luzon 2, West Visayas, East Visayas, North Mindanao, South Mindanao.
- Grand draw will be held in 4 areas nationwide: GMA, Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao.

Magmadali! Sali na!

Promo Period:
September 9, 2001 to December 15, 2001

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0633 s. 2001

CLASS 1941 of the Philippine Normal School celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on Sept. 2. Shown are members of the executive board of the PNS Class '41 Alumni Association. Seated (from left): Concepcion Muñoz Orbos, Aurora Salgado Gapas, Dr. Minda Cascolan Sutaria, Honorata Aguinaldo Moreno, Victoria Ramirez Villanueva, lawyer Michaelina Ramos Balasbas. Standing: Ludovico Agulto, lawyer Salvador Paras, Consuelo Dancel Sison, Col. Emigdio Jose and Dr. Arturo F. Coronel.

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Singers, under choirmaster Prof. Fidel Calalang, will hold a homecoming concert, "Per Sempre," at the Philamlife Auditorium at 7 p.m. today. The concert follows the group's highly successful Pacific tour, capped by their participation in Mexico's second World Choral Festival, where they were named Best Choir from among entries from 13 countries. Call the UST Conservatory of Music at 731-4022, or Viola Villena at 0917-9118011.

Christmas bazaar set at Manila Polo Club

GADGETS, apparel and furnishings will be featured at the Noel Christmas Bazaar at the Manila Polo Club on Oct. 13 and 14.

More than 120 entrepreneurs will present the newest lines in fashion and accessories, trimmings for homes, Christmas décor and pastries and goodies.

GOINGS-ON

At the World Trade Center, Christmas-@2001 Shop Expo features fashion shows, raffle draws and other surprise treats on Dec. 1-2.

Noel Christmas Bazaar returns to the Manila Polo Club on Dec. 15-16.

Proceeds from these bazaars will go to the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation, which honors the memories of martyrs who sacrificed their lives for truth, freedom and justice.

Call 371-7405/7398 or 373-3601, local 216.

PROGRAM. The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the San Juan de Dios Educational Foundation Inc. is now accepting applicants for the first year of its Residency Training Program. Deadline is on Sept. 28. Call 831-9731, local 1149 or 834-2441.

TRAINING COURSE. The Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care Inc. and the Philippine Academy of Medical Acupuncture invite medical practitioners to participate in the "Basic Acupuncture Training Course" on Sept. 17-Oct. 12 at the Manila Manor Hotel. As part of the training, a medical mission will be conducted at the Malacañang Clinic and the Philippine Orthopedic Center on Oct.4-10. Call 781-8838, 711-6670 and 743-8301/23, local 2605.

CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP. The St. Luke's Medical Center Heart Institute is accepting applicants for first year clinical fellowship in adult cardiology. Deadline for submission of applications is on Sept. 21. Call 724-1589 or 724-5402.

CONTEST. The Rotary Club of Makati Pasong Tamo will sponsor an "On-the-Spot Drawing and Painting Contest," 1-5 p.m., Sept. 30, at the 2/L, Ayala Mall, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati City. Deadline for registration is on Sept. 30. Visit the secretariat of the Rotary Club of Makati Pasong Tamo, CCJS, 2/F, The Plaza Royale, 120 L.P. Leviste (formerly Alfaro) St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Call 812-5246 to 48 or 372-1152.

CONFERENCE. The 16th Asia-Pacific Cancer Conference will be held on Nov.18-21 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). Organized by the Philippine Cancer Society, with other professional societies and agencies engaged in cancer prevention and control, the four-day conference will bring together cancer specialists from India, Japan, New Zealand, Malaysia and the Philippines. Theme of the meeting is Fighting Cancer in the New Millennium. Call 733-3485.

AWARD. Entries to the NVM Awards, which honors the late National Artist for Literature N.V.M Gonzales, are now being accepted. The competition is open to all Filipino writers in English. All short stories in English published on Oct.1, 2000 to Oct. 7, 2001 are eligible. Deadline for submission of nominations is Oct. 15. All entries must be submitted in four copies, including the published original. Call 929-1663. The awarding ceremony will be on Dec.8.

PRODUCT. Uptrend Business Center has produced and released a compact disc, "Visita Iglesia: A Digital Folio of Metro Manila Churches." This first-of-its-kind CD contains more than 300 digital photographs of 28 Catholic churches in Metro Manila. The churches include the Manila Cathedral, Edsa Shrine, the old churches in Quiapo, Binondo, Baclaran, Malate, Sta. Cruz, Pasig, Marikina, San Juan, Sta. Ana, Las Piñas and Parañaque. The digital folio also covers modern churches such as Christ the King, Sta. Maria della Strada and the Holy Sacrifice chapel in Diliman. Call 928-3464 or e-mail uptrend@pacific.net.ph.

OPENING. The Marian and Oncology Center (MROC), the newest state-of-the-art center for cancer treatment, opened yesterday in time for the celebration of the Immaculate Conception Day. The center is run by MROC1, an affiliate of Marian Property Holdings chaired by Dr. Lilia Pagtakhan-Luna, obstetrician-gynecologist and director of the Far Eastern University-Narciso Reyes Memorial Foundation (FEU-NRMF) Hospital.

Archdiocese of Caceres celebrates golden jubilee

THE ARCHDIOCESE of Caceres will mark the formal closing ceremonies of its golden jubilee celebration as an Archdiocese on Sept. 13, 4 p.m. at the Metropolitan Cathedral Grounds, Naga City. The Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, Most Rev. Antonio Franco, will be the officiating prelate and preacher during the Eucharistic celebration.

This culminating activity of the 50th year of the Archdiocese will highlight the annual feast of Our Lady of Peñafrancia, the Patroness of Bicolandia, on Sept. 7-16.

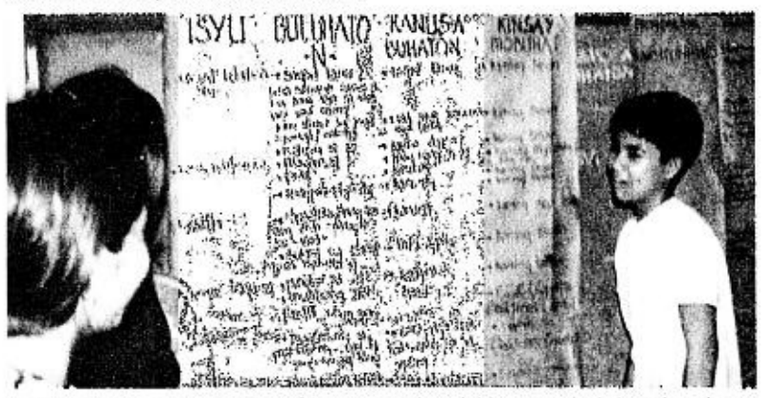
In preparing the faithful for this celebration, Most. Rev. Leonardo Legaspi, O.P., archbishop of Caceres, writes in his pastoral letter entitled "Do Whatever He Tells You: Fashioning Our Future": "This celebration is the worthy completion of our triennium of faith which we began with our consecration to our Ina, Our Lady of Peñafrancia, on Her diamond coronation anniversary last September 1999."

Every Sunday until September, a Thanksgiving Mass is held in every Vicariate of the Archdiocese. During the Mass, there is also a "Tinagba Offering" given to the poor families in the vicariates. Special prayers and intentions for all sectors of the community are also offered in all parishes of the Archdiocese.

At present, the Archdiocese of Caceres has 60 parishes with 179 priests serving the present population of 1,180,296 of whom 91 percent are Catholics.

Bol-anons put their love for children in writing

AN ADULT facilitator helps children aged 10-14 participating in a Barangay Children's Council meeting organized by Feed the Children Philippines. They discuss their concerns and submit the list of issues they would like the barangay to address and the proposed actions. Many barangays have already set up councils for the protection of children.



CHILDREN look at the list of issues and activities needed that they have drawn up. The chart also identifies who would be responsible for a specific activity.

BY LINDA B. BOLIDO

ALTHOUGH traditionally the butt of jokes of other Visayans for their frugal ways and for their supposed ignorance and naiveté when they get to the really big cities, the Bol-anon or people from Bohol actually have a lot to be proud of.

The province, an island about an hour and a half away from Cebu by boat, has everything to offer even the most fastidious traveler. It has the wondrous Chocolate Hills, which remain awesome even though stories have it that indiscriminate quarrying has made a few disappear. Its beaches would rival those of the more well-known tourist resorts in the Philippines while its mountains shelter the cute and lovable tarsier, mistakenly labeled as the world's smallest monkey. (Although it is also a primate, the tarsier is actually more closely related to the lemur than to monkeys and apes, which are classified as anthropoids or having human-like form.)

Bohol has some of the country's loveliest old churches, the most prominent of which is in the town of Baclayon. The province has already given the Philippines one president, the late Carlos P. Garcia, who assumed the presidency upon Ramon Magsaysay's death and won for a single term in the next presidential election.

More than its physical attributes, Bohol has quietly made remarkable accomplishments. The province used to be a model for the government's population program and, although an average family will still include four children, its current population growth rate is reportedly just over 1 percent per year, almost one-half of the national rate of over 2 percent.

Recently, Bohol probably also gave itself the distinction of being the first province to enact a local version of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Philippine Plan of Action for Children. The Bohol Children's Code pretty much incorporates the provisions of the other documents but a few sections give it a distinctly local flavor.

ANOTHER facilitator introduces younger children to some of the simpler and more basic provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Bohol Children's Code incorporates the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Philippine Plan of Action for Children but a few sections give it a distinctly local flavor

Article 5, which covers special concerns, list items that may seem strange to those in the big cities but probably familiar to other provincial folk.

Item D, for instance, prohibits "using girls as commodities in benefit dances." Bong Fostanes, a program officer of the Feed the Children Philippines, which took the lead role in the drafting of the code, explained that it was a common practice in Bohol to have men bid for a chance to dance with a girl or a woman in order to raise money. Sometimes ribbons, with varying prices, are sold entitling the buyer to dance with a particular girl.

Those familiar with the old dance halls in the country would probably recognize the practice except that, in this case, buying tickets for a dance is not a clandestine pleasure but is considered a legitimate way to raise funds.

Punishment

And if you think punishment for a wayward child is now confined to suspending his or her phone privileges or depriving him or her of access to the television, you would marvel at the ingenuity of Bohol parents and other persons in authority. The Code specifically prohibits the following "physical and degrading forms of punishment":

- Ordering or directing a child to kneel on salt;
- Placing a child inside a sack and/or hanging him/her;
- Shaving the head of a child;
- Whipping the child with the tail of a stingray, stick, belt and similar objects;
- Stripping the child of his/her clothes;
- Locking up the child in a cabinet or cupboard or any closed structure;
- Tying up the child or otherwise detaining him/her;
- Throwing objects such as but not limited to erasers, chalk and notebooks at the child;
- Pulling the hair of the child;
- Making the child stand under the heat of the sun;
- Exposing the child to be bitten by ants.

The Code also prohibits prearranged marriages. As explained by Fostanes, some families in the province, in a practice known locally as *buya*, agree to have their children marry each other, sometimes as soon as the children are born. The agreement, meant to cement relations between the families concerned, could not be broken even if the youngsters are not inclined to marry each other and there are no written documents to formalize it.

Another practice the Code penalizes is offering a child or his/her services as payment for a debt or in exchange for a favor. Many children end up as household help because of this.

The Code prohibits schools, both public and private, from refusing admission to, refusing to graduate, or withholding academic clearances from a student because of pregnancy. Fostanes said there had been a number of cases in Bohol where schools refused, on the grounds of immorality, to issue the credentials of new graduates who had become pregnant.

At the same time, the Code prohibits schools in the province from discriminating against a child by reason of illegitimacy. Among the instances of such discrimination the Code specified are:

- Refusal to enroll children because of illegitimacy;
- Requiring the presentation of the parents' marriage contract before a child can be enrolled.

The Code also contains provisions that apply specifically to children of indigenous peoples in Bohol. Aside from prohibiting any form of discrimination against these children, the Code specifies that "children of indigenous people shall be entitled to protection, survival and development consistent with the customs and traditions of their respective communities."

It mandates the Provincial Council for the Welfare of Children, in coordination with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, to develop and institute an alternative system of education for children of indigenous peoples. Such a system, the Code stressed, should be culture-specific and relevant to the needs of these children.

The Code, which was co-authored by Sangguniang Panlalawigan member Godofreda O. Tirol and Vice Gov. Edgar M. Chatto, was signed last year by then Gov. Rene Lopez Relampagos.

RAPPORTEURS write down what the meeting had agreed on while other participants look on.

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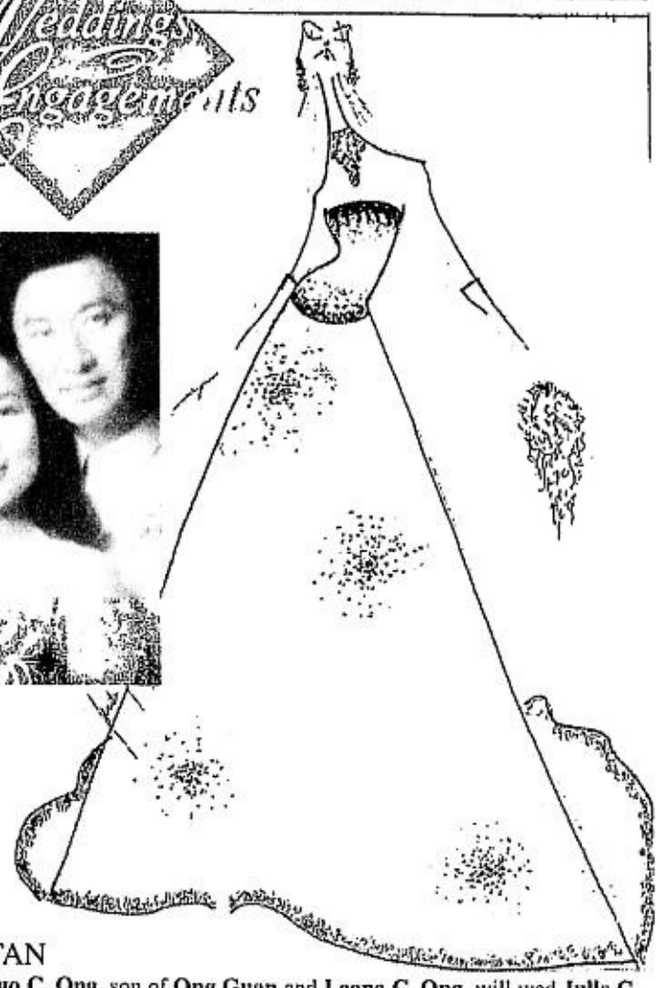
Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings, engagements and debuts. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least two weeks before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

BERMUDEZ DEBUT

Jiselle Bermudez of Roxas City, eldest daughter of Capt. **Merlindo** and **Lourdes Bermudez,** will celebrate her 18th birthday on Sept. 15 at the CAP Auditorium.

She will wear an original creation, a burgundy dupione gown, by Roxas City's **Blas Aligno.** The fully boned corsette is embellished with multilayered Austrian glass beads. The gown features a low back tapering into a princess-cut flowing skirt.



ONG-TAN

Zhivago C. Ong, son of **Ong Guan** and **Leona C. Ong**, will wed **Julie G. Tan**, daughter of **Lao Mui Eng**, on Sept. 30 at the Sacred Heart Church, D. Jakosalem St[illegible] Cebu City. Reception follows at the Cebu City Marriott Hotel. Gown designer is **Winston L. Desierto** of Ramos Street, Cebu City.

TAN-RACAL

Pong Racal, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Regino Racal**, will walk down the aisle of the San Agustin Church on Sept. 14 to wed **Raymond Tan**, son of **Nina Buiser vda. Tan**. The bride will wear a salmon peach gown in dupione silk. With the calla lily as inspiration, the cathedral skirt is embellished with handmade silk lilies traced with jet beads and sequins. The drawstring corset top is liberally scattered with salmon-colored Swarovski crystals and faux pearls. A 10-yard-long veil of illusion tulle completes her ensemble. The groom will wear a hand-embroidered barong in *piña liniwan*, while the entourage will wear silk shantung gowns in rust orange. Reception follows at Father Blanco's Garden, Intramuros, Manila.

JACOBO DEBUT

Michelle Ariane L. Jacobo, daughter of **Arlene Jacobo**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on Sept. 28 at the Garden Ballroom, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Ortigas Center.

The debutante will wear a strapless gown—embroidered tulle encrusted with beadwork and rosettes—with a bouffant skirt and bustier top by **Lito Perez** of Camp Suki.

FERNANDEZ DEBUT

Princess "Cheng" C. Fernandez, daughter of Capt. **Paulino A. Fernandez** and **Vivian C. Fernandez**, will celebrate her 18th birthday with a dinner dance on Sept. 15 at Capitol Villas Social Hall, Ramos Street, Carangian, Tarlac City. Cheng is a second year nursing student of the Central University, Baguio City.

ANGELES-DAVIS

Agnes Kay "Girlie" Edma Davis, daughter of **Felipe C. Davis** and **Potenciana Ebarle Edma**, will wed **Manuel "Manny" delos Santos Angeles**, son of engineer **Oscar Monfero Angeles** and **Lerma Angeles Lange-Roggendorf**, on Oct. 20 at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life in Central Business Park, Reclamation Area, Pasay City. The bride will wear an **Edward Teng** creation, an off-shoulder ecru metallic satin gown accentuated with chiffon bodice in flowerette embroidery, minute glass crystals and caviar beads with handmade flowers and vines cascading on the back in beige and cream. A cathedral train of illusion tulle completes the ensemble. Motif is celadon green and matte gold.

Reception will follow at the Intramuros Grand Ballroom, Manila Midtown Hotel.

See you in court.

Taulava
Fran
Williams
Codiñera
Ejercito
Pablo

PHONE PALS

Yan ang galing ng new Talk 'N Text Phone Pals.

See the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals Team in action in the PBA Governor's Cup starting September 9, 4PM at the Araneta Coliseum, or watch them live via channel 13.

PBA™ IMG adidas Infinity One Robee Stickers

Yan ang galing... without overspending!

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Ever-reliable 'Wings of Taiwan' is globally recognized

This year, EVA Air—fondly called "Wings of Taiwan"— celebrates 10 years of operation in the Philippines. Throughout such time, EVA Air has displayed a consistency in world-class services. Such unchanging adherence to global standards has set the corporation apart.

EVA Airways Corp. was founded in March 1989 and officially incorporated in April of the same year with a capital of NT$10 billion (US$370 million). Originally, the company's name was to have been Evergreen Airways. It was eventually abbreviated to EVA Air to avoid confusion with another American airliner with the same name.

Taiwan's leading independently owned and operated airline, EVA Air is part of the respected Evergreen Group and an affiliate company to Evergreen Marine.

The name EVA Air, however, eventually turned out to be more appropriate as the corporation introduced to global skies something new, fresh and innovative in airline services.

EVA Air commissioned renowned US design consultants Landor Associates to create a complete corporate identity system. EVA Air aircraft easily stands out. The planes are painted bright green and orange to complement the familiar Evergreen logo of a light green globe with compass inset. The position of the elements of the logo leads the eye in the direction of the skies to impart the new horizons of excellence EVA Air is poised to explore.

More importantly, the airline's strong image is reflected right through from the choice of aircraft to the ticket design to the dinner service used in-flight.

Notable of this fleet is that each aircraft is equipped with a Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), an Aircraft Communication and Addressing Recording System (Acars), and satellite-linked communications systems.

Global recognition

EVA Air is recognized by the International Aviation Transportation Association (Iata) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (Icao). EVA Air carries on the enterprising drive, solidarity, innovation and devotion to service associated with the Evergreen Group, and announces the dawning of a new era for the Group's global transportation network.

Worldwide, EVA Air serves nine dedicated cargo destinations, and 29 more that are both cargo and passenger gateways, linking the American continent with major business and trade centers in Europe, the Persian Gulf, India, Oceania and throughout Asia. In North America, the carrier's air cargo network includes Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Dallas and Atlanta, in addition to New York and Toronto.

The carrier has earned a solid reputation in all the markets it serves for reliability, and uses procedures and systems on the leading edge of air cargo technology to give its air freight customers as much convenience, ease and speed as possible.

Luxury a crucial factor

The Evergreen Deluxe Class of EVA Air now also boasts of its newly enhanced stature. EVA Air has been constantly working on ways to enhance service to new levels of perfection.

In the Evergreen Deluxe Class, personal touches such as wide seats with leg rests and seatback TVs are complemented by exclusive privileges and amenities such as:

- 25-percent more Evergreen Club mileage credit;
- On-board confirmation of return flights;
- Exclusive check-in counter;
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K.W. Nieh, deputy senior vice president of EVA Air, said, "We began preparations to resume this service as soon as we knew an air agreement had been re-signed by the governments of the Philippines and Taiwan. In order to reinstate this service promptly and make it as convenient as possible, we have moved quickly to address difficult logistics concerns, including fleet rotation and local staffing."

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Recently, EVA Air has signed a contract with Airbus Industrie to add eight new A330-200 widebody aircraft to its fleet. The carrier will begin taking deliveries of the A330-200s in early 2003 through 2005.

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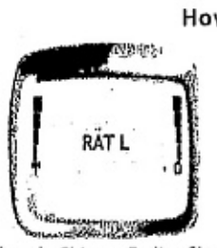

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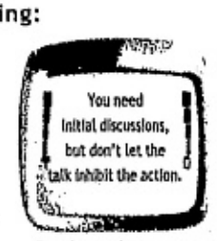

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

SAN Sebastian Cathedral

Lipa City as major agricultural center

BY TITA V. GIRON

BULALO and *tawilis* are the first things that come to mind at the mention of Lipa City as an agricultural center. But things are changing fast in this historic Batangas town. At the rate new flower and garden farms are opening in various barangays, it will be a flower capital in no time. And, if flower growers in other parts of the country don't watch it, they will be overtaken soon by aggressive ornamental and cutflower people in Lipa City.

Some of the known commercial growers in the country have farms in Lipa. For example, Sandy Javier of the Andok's fame has his roses, orchids and palms, as well as racing horses. Rep. Celso Lobregat has been growing roses and gerberas for many years now. And more people, including expats and retirees are moving in to farm on weekends, or pursue their garden hobbies. They raise cattle, horses, chicken, hogs. They grow garden plants and beautiful flowers.

Batangas folks had proven at their recent garden show and livestock fair that they could match their competitors, flower for flower, livestock for livestock. They showed off their best flowering orchids, gerberas, anthuriums and roses along with bonsai and rare plant collections.

For the first time, they were invited to hold their show at the city hall grounds. Members of the 10-year-old Lipa Cutflower Growers Association consider this a good omen of better years to come. In previous garden and trade shows, they used to pitch their tents at less prestigious venues.

The agricultural fair was one of the most memorable anniversary celebrations of Lipa City. Other activities included the following: a golf tournament at the Fernando Air Base Gold Course; exhibit of recyclable materials; social, cultural, environmental show and parade; and street party featuring live band and fames.

At their recent garden show and livestock fair, Batangas folks showed how they could match their competitors, flower for flower

"We hold garden shows every year, but this particular event is memorable to most of us," Robin Tan, chair of the association, told us.

Surprise

We were almost sure Tan was not only referring to the surprise appearance of Mayor Vilma Santos at the opening ceremony. Everyone thought she wouldn't be caught appearing in public because of current threats to her life as a result of her crackdown on criminal elements in the city.

But Santos did grace the ribbon-cutting ceremony that officially opened the two-week show and trade fair. What's more, she took her own sweet time going around the exhibit and getting acquainted with plants and plant aficionados.

With the open support of Santos, and an enviable farming environment, the growth of the horticulture industry in Lipa City is almost certain. In addition to the favorable climate and abundant water supply, the city is situated away from typhoon paths and is shielded by the legendary Mt. Malarayat.

LIPA/p.E3

TREE planting at Mt. Malarayat

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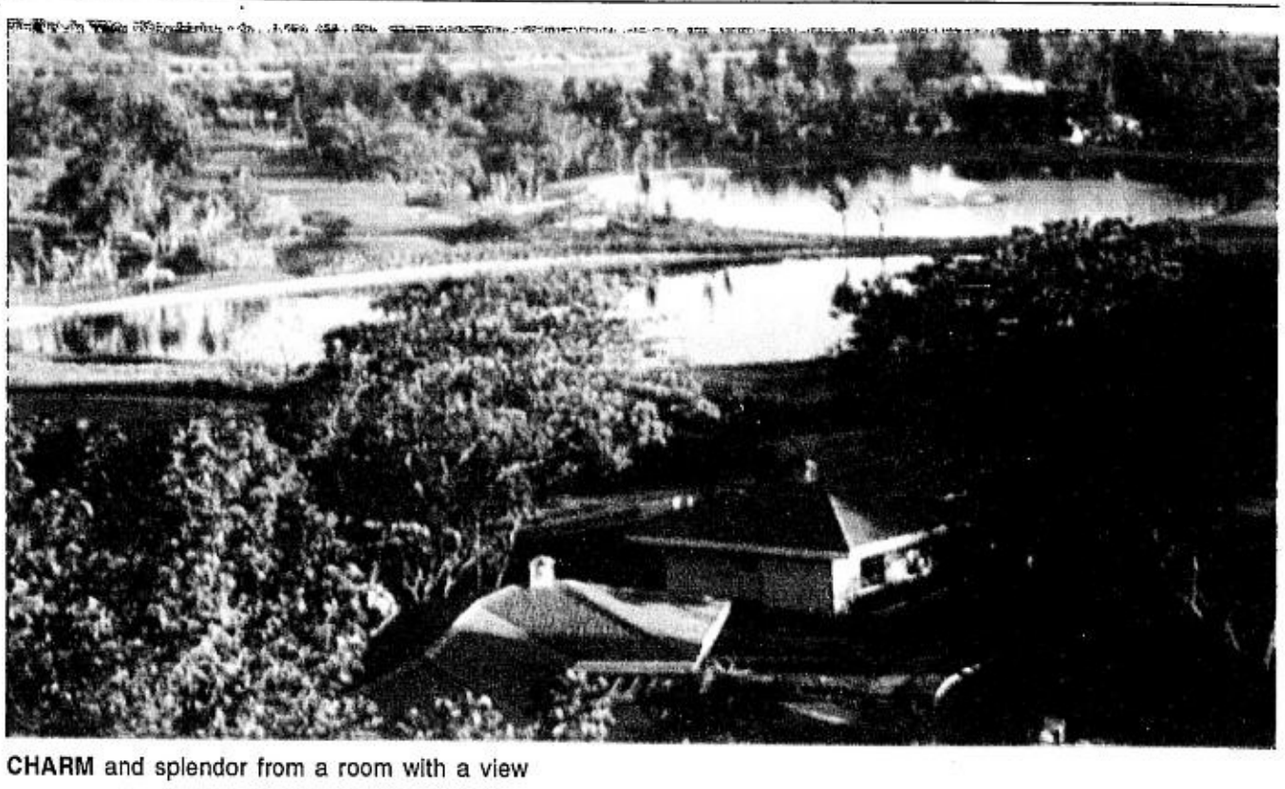


CHARM and splendor from a room with a view

Holiday pleasures

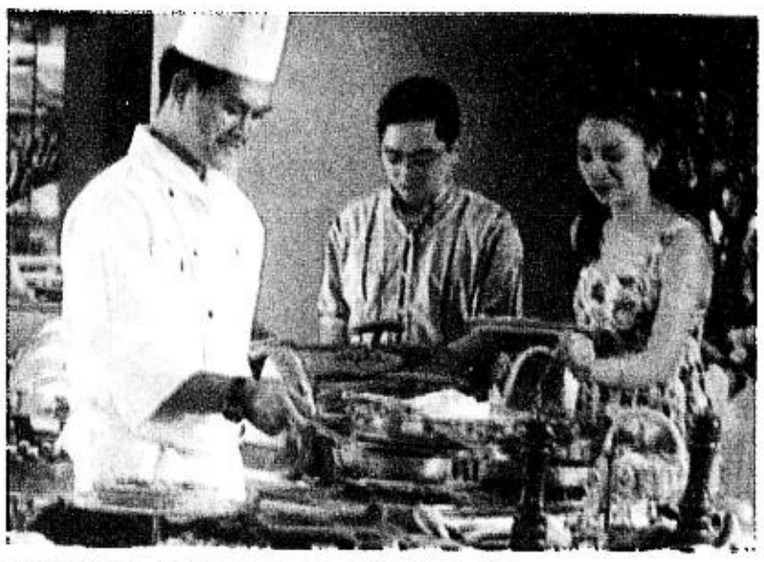
BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA

IT was one of those weekends when we were just raring to get away for even just 24 hours of peace and quiet. Leaving Manila on a rainy late Saturday morning, we arrived to a quieter Clark Field a little past noon. Entering the Mimosa Leisure Estate, towering, age-old Mimosa rain trees greeted us on that gray day, giving the former airbase a charm and splendor all its own.

We parked ourselves at the Holiday Inn Resort on Clark Field, which bustled with activity that afternoon. Businessmen and women who attended conventions and seminars were already checking out as families availing of the weekend package began to arrive. Despite the long queues, checking in was a breeze and we were whisked off to our room which had a nice view of the pool. Disappointed that the weather was all muggy and uncooperative—for golf or outdoor play, the father after a harried week at work, plopped himself on the easy chair and began to channel surf. The children, on the other hand, were getting antsy so after freshening up, we looked for alternative indoor activities that could keep them occupied for hours.

Driving around the block, we espied the Funhouse, which provided the boys with an hour in the video arcade and the girls a competitive round of indoor hockey. After expending energy for about an hour or so, they went to the Li'l Tikes playground. After a while, it began to drizzle and so we went back to the car and headed back to the hotel. Famished after the round of activities, we had *merienda* at the hotel's Mequeni coffeeshop, which serves delicious treats in addition to the sumptuous lunch and dinner buffet. The hotel currently has a child's play package voucher where children 12 years old and below eat for only a hundred pesos (plus tax) when dining with a paying adult and children 3 years old and below eat for free.

After *merienda*, we deposited the children at the fully supervised Kid's Inn, the hotel's play center for children aged 1-10 years old. Inside the Kid's Inn are an array of toys both recreational and educational for children of various ages. Everyday, there are arts and crafts and storytelling activities for the kiddies. While the kids were at the play center we quickly grabbed a much-needed nap just before dinner.



FOODFEST. Café Mequeni's delightful buffet

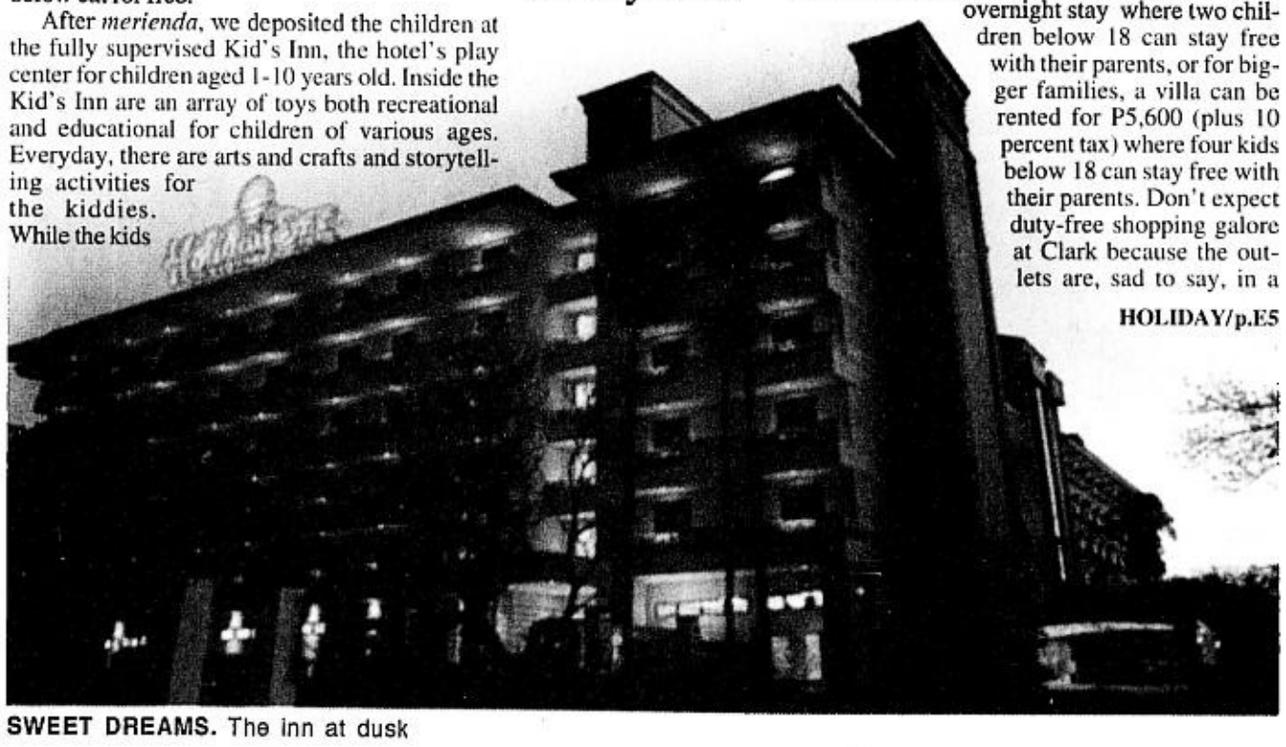
Despite the drizzle, an overnight stay at the Mimosa Leisure Estate was a worthwhile experience and well-spent family time

Filling dinner

For dinner, we savored Pampango cuisine. Our choices were either the seemingly endless selection of entrées from Café Mequeni's buffet or feasting on Mongolian buffet at the hotel's roof deck where one can enjoy cool breeze. We opted for the Mongolian buffet and we were not disappointed. After a filling dinner, we decided to take a walk around the hotel property with the children before heading off to bed. To end the day, after the kids had drifted off to dreamland, we hied off to a bar for a nightcap. For tired muscles, or simply to de-stress, the hotel provides massage service either at the fitness center (P400/hour) or in the comfort of one's room (P450).

The following day found us having breakfast by the poolside after which the kids were finally able to take a dip in the huge pool while their father hied off to the golf course. Room rates for a family of four at Holiday Inn are reasonable and ideal for a family of four to six children. A junior suite is offered for P3,600 (plus 10 percent tax)/ overnight stay where two children below 18 can stay free with their parents, or for bigger families, a villa can be rented for P5,600 (plus 10 percent tax) where four kids below 18 can stay free with their parents. Don't expect duty-free shopping galore at Clark because the outlets are, sad to say, in a

HOLIDAY/p.E5



SWEET DREAMS. The inn at dusk

Lipa City as major agricultural center

MAYOR Vilma Santos cuts ribbon at the opening ceremony, assisted by Department of Agriculture officer Jimmy Tolentino and Robin Tan, president of the Lipa Cutflower Growers Association.

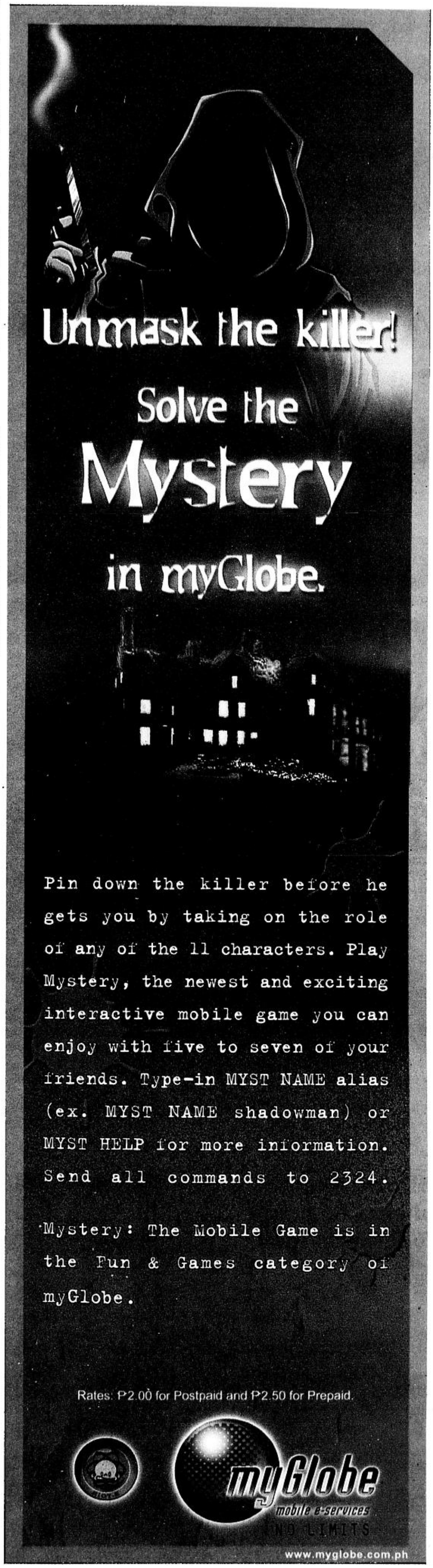
(From page E1)

Things are certainly changing fast in this historic city where the very first seeds of the cacao and coffee industries in the Philippines were sown by Spanish friars in the 1880s.

The most recent changes are happening in the horticulture industry where several farms are now producing flowers for the florist industry. Some growers have also started exporting plants, leaves, and flowers.

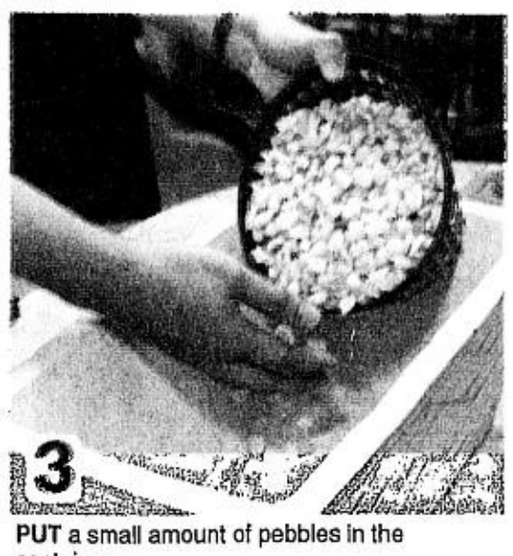
According to Tan, landscaping is also a growing business, he added. He used to grow anthuriums for the florists in Manila. Now, he is into landscaping. Some of his works include gardens of known personalities in the city. "Unlike other landscapers in the country, we don't have to look far for our planting materials. These are grown right here in Lipa City."

Things are certainly looking rosy for Lipa City's plant lovers. For more information on Lipa City's agriculture industry, call the public affairs office of Mayor Vilma Santos at (043) 756-7838 or 981-3414.

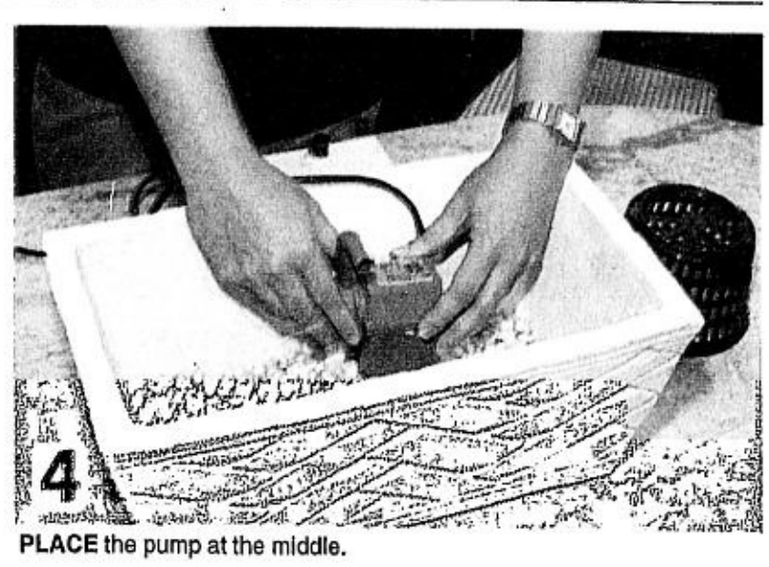


DRILL holes on top of the wall décor.

DRILL a larger hole at the back (lower portion) of the décor and affix a one-inch PVC pipe.



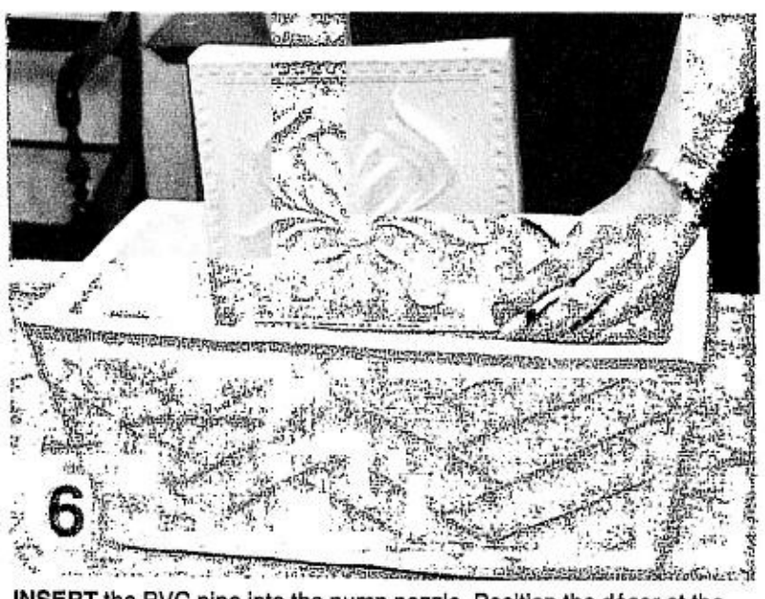
PUT a small amount of pebbles in the container.



PLACE the pump at the middle.

Another do-it-yourself fountain

COVER with a plastic basket to keep the stones away from the pump.



INSERT the PVC pipe into the pump nozzle. Position the décor at the center of the container.

ADD more pebbles, making sure the basket is completely concealed.

BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES
PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

TWO months ago, Lifestyle featured a stunning easy-to-make indoor tabletop fountain. The response from readers was overwhelming, especially through e-mail. Many of them have tried it at home and given away their creations as presents to friends. Others have even started small businesses.

CRAFT

With this kind of feedback, we thought of featuring another exquisite design for desktop fountains called Euro-fountain. "This homemade self-contained fountain will always give a room a soft, gentle mood," says interior designer and landscape artist Jerome de Jesus of Portofino. "Nothing beats water trickling down a wall and into a basin and creating a soothing, gurgling sound."

Streams and waterfalls inspired De Jesus to create this enchanting fountain, which provides the perfect touch to a European- or Mediterranean-type of living room.

Making this fountain will cost you less than what you would pay for a relatively small fountain in garden shops or appliance stores. A homemade fountain costs P1,500 while a commercial one sells for P2,000 to P5,000.

You will need a basin or a garden planter for the fountain. "It can be any container [made of clay pots, metal, plastic, terracotta, ceramic or stoneware] as long as it does not leak," says De Jesus. Paint the container white to make it look elegant and attractive.

For the centerpiece, any resin wall décor, hollow inside and with intricate design, will do. Drill holes on top of this décor. The trajectory of the water depends on how big or small the holes are. The smaller the holes the higher the water will flow out. Start with small holes until you get your desired diameter.

You will need white pebbles, which can be purchased at any garden shop for P50 a kilo or less.

Choose a medium-capacity water pump for this arrangement. Although there are different types of water pumps in the market, you don't need a high-powered pump if you're using a small dish. A medium-capacity "power head" water pump may cost P700 at True Value and pet shops.

Flowers and plants play a big role in this art piece. Choose plants that can thrive in low light and survive in water, such as fortune plants or dracaenas. Make sure the roots have been cleaned of soil so as not to clog the pump.

Other tools needed are PVC (polyvinyl chloride) pipe available in all hardware shops for P20 or less, a small basket or an ordinary strainer to keep the stones away from the pump (and avoid overheating) and all-purpose adhesive.

E-mail the author at vbaga-@inquirer.com.ph

TABLE-TOP fountain enhances the serenity of your private garden or room with the soothing sounds and relaxing motion of water.

SLIP in the plants.

FILL up with water up to the edge of the container. Make sure the pump is fully submerged in water.

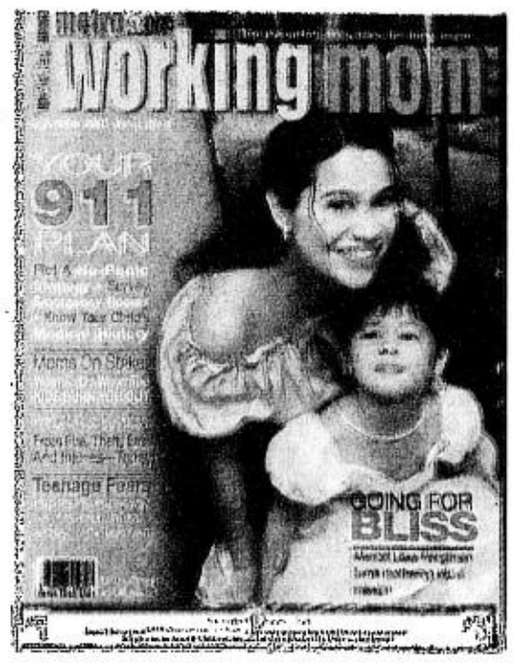
Moms should always be ready for emergencies

KNOW how to handle home emergencies in the latest issue of Metro Working Mom. The magazine tackles every kind of emergency situation you may encounter and provides surefire strategies to deal with it.

MWM's September issue starts the special Emergency feature with "Profiles of Panic," which tells you how to remain calm and rational in the midst of urgent situations. "Partners in the ER" prepares you for that dreaded trip to the emergency room and presents a clear guide on how to give an accurate medical history of your child to the doctor. In "Survey of Emergency Rooms," MWM equips you with the crucial factors you need to consider in deciding what hospital you'll run to in the event of an emergency.

The other sections of MWM are loaded with information. The "Your Turn" section features coping strategies when the kids are burning you out. In "Your Health," discover how you can shape up and look gorgeous in 30 days. The "Growing Up" section features valuable information on hidden dangers at home and ways to childproof every part of the house. Find out, too, what teenagers fear the most and how to help your own children conquer them.

This latest issue, with parenting advocate Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan and daughter Ella gracing the cover, also features the lowdown on insuring your home-based business, choosing



the right pair of jeans for a full figure, a fashion spread of exquisite cocktail dresses, and recipes for no-fuss, delectable seafood dishes.

MWM's readers get together every month for free parenting workshops on various topics. The workshops are conducted by experts such as family/parenting counselor Maribel Dionisio, child psychologist Dr. Lourdes Carandang and math and psychology expert Dr. Queena Lee-Chua.

Metro Working Mom is the magazine for busy moms published by ABS-CBN Publishing and is available at leading bookstores, newsstands and specialty stores nationwide.

Start your child's day right with a healthy breakfast

PARENTS can give their children a healthy advantage at school by sending them off with a nutritious breakfast.

At a recent Nutritionists' Roundtable Discussion, clinical and sports nutritionist Sanirose Orbeta and Nutritionists-Dieticians' Association of the Philippines president Dr. Demetria Bongga agreed that youngsters should never go to school on an empty stomach.

"No student can concentrate, much less perform, if he or she is hungry," said Dr. Bongga. She cited a landmark study conducted by the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning, which found that students who had breakfast every morning showed significant improvements in their math and reading test scores, increased attentiveness and improved behavior in school.

Dr. Bongga said the results were so astonishing it surprised even the proponents of the study because, although they expected higher test scores, they did not anticipate the decrease in disciplinary problems and visits to the school clinic.

Orbeta added that similar studies conducted in other states revealed the same significant findings: that behavioral problems and obstacles to learning can be traced back to hunger; when a child goes to school on an empty stomach, he is more prone to be inattentive, either bored or hyperactive.

Dr. Bongga said symptoms of hunger could have serious repercussions on a child's long-term academic performance. "We want to send a message to all parents—that ensuring a proper breakfast for their kids is probably one of the most important contributions they can make to their children's education and overall well-being."

Dr. Bongga and Orbeta agree that skipping breakfast is becoming more prevalent as children and parents are always in a hurry to get to school or work on time.

They suggest making breakfast simpler yet nutritious. The most convenient item on the breakfast table, they said, would be cereal as even kids could prepare it themselves.

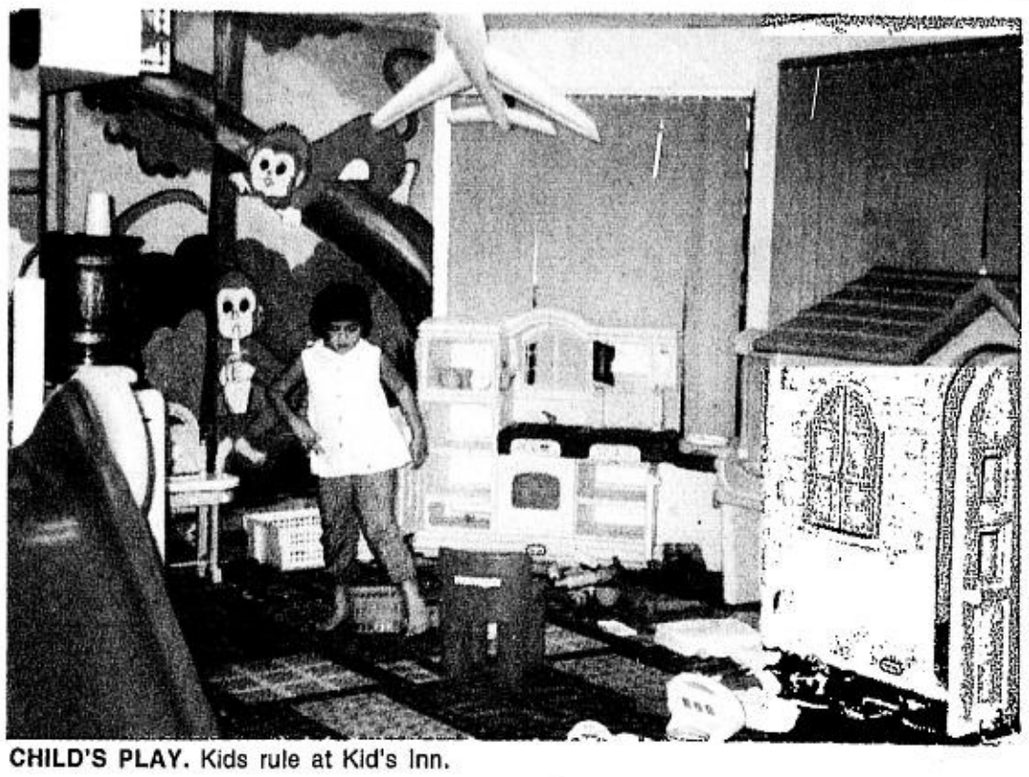
Dr. Bongga said cereals and milk made a good combination. "The calcium and protein from milk increase the nutritive value of breakfast cereals, which are usually fortified with vitamins and minerals," he explained. He added that cereal was also an excellent source of fiber.

Orbeta cautions parents against allowing kids to indulge in junk food. She points out when kids are hungry, they will eat anything that is available.

The Nutritionists' Roundtable Discussion was held as part of Smart Start for Smart Kids campaign sponsored by Nestlé Koko Krunch. The campaign is in line with the product's commitment to increase parent and teacher awareness of the essential role breakfast plays in meeting daily nutritional needs, maintaining a healthy diet and promoting children's overall good health, development and learning ability.

Started in July, Nutrition Month, the campaign also features quiz shows and cereals sampling in some 50 schools in Metro Manila.

Nestlé is the market leader in the ready-to-eat cereals category with its products of different flavors: Koko Krunch, Milo Balls, Honey Stars, Trix, Snow Flakes, Choko Flakes, Corn Flakes, Honey Gold, Almond Clusters, Banana Nut Clusters and Frutina.



CHILD'S PLAY. Kids rule at Kid's Inn.

Holiday pleasures

(From page E3)

pathetic state. To save on meals, there is a McDonald's and a Chowking within the former airbase.

Clark is ideal because it provides a different scenery yet is close in proximity to Manila. If you leave early, you save yourself from the hassles of traffic. In spite of the gentle rain throughout our stay, it was a well-spent 24 hours of quality family time. Back in Manila, it was back to reality.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

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TRAVEL

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO, Editor

When the icy waters of the bay begin to freeze over, the usually solitary polar bears become more sociable creatures and gather on the shores of Cape Churchill

Bear season

BY RICHARD PENNICK

AFTER A SUMMER on the land, and when the ice begins to freeze in early October, hundreds of polar bears gather on the western shores of Hudson's Bay to begin the annual hunt for seals.

The polar bear migration is one of the many wildlife events that may be experienced with ecotourism operators in this remote wilderness region of Northern Canada.

Visitors observe and photograph these beautiful animals from the safety of a "tundra buggy." The usually solitary polar bears become more sociable creatures when they congregate with others in anticipation of the new hunting season. As many as 60 bears may be seen on the beach and tundra in one day.

The bears gather on the rocky shores of Cape Churchill for several weeks of socializing. Gigantic old males rise on their hind legs, towering three meters above the young adult cubs they playfully wrestle and spar with. Occasionally, you may witness the tender interaction between yearling cubs and their mothers, ever wary of the threat from restless males.

In time the icy waters of the bay freeze over, providing the access to their main food source—the hapless ringed seal.

There are a number of companies offering polar bear watching tours and other wildlife and wilderness experiences. The tours originate in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and visitors fly or take the train up to the town of Churchill. Visits range from two nights or longer stays in or near Churchill at hotels or wilderness lodges. Some programs simply satisfy a desire to see the polar bears, and others offer extensive ecological experiences complete with hikes and camping on the tundra with study and interpretation by qualified naturalists.

The wildlife tours are led by professional naturalists with extensive experience in guiding interested visitors without disturbing the ecology. Their purpose includes a desire to raise awareness of environmental issues in the area, and to preserve the diverse magnificence of life in this region.

These wilderness experiences often include programs to enlighten one on artistic and native cultures with film, discussion and seminars on environmental issues.

Tours range in price from US$1395 for a two-night stay in Churchill, and two days of tundra buggy tourism including the flight from Winnipeg.

For more information on polar bear and arctic wildlife watching tours, go to: http://www.tundrabuggytours.com or e-mail info@wildlifeadventures.com.

In North America, call 1-800-593-8881 or 204-949-2050, or write International Wildlife Adventures, P.O. Box 40063, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R2L 2G2.

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TRAVEL BRIEFS

New business class

CATHAY Pacific Airways' newest aircraft recently made its maiden passenger flight to Manila via CX901. The A330-300 was delivered to Hong Kong from the Airbus Industrie factory in Toulouse, France, on Sept. 1. It landed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Sept. 5.

The A330-300 features Cathay Pacific's new business class product, featuring what is believed the longest and widest stretch-flat seat in the sky, an exclusive in-flight bar and reception area for passengers, AVOD (audio and video on demand) in-flight entertainment, and facilities for in-flight e-mail.

The new business class will be progressively introduced on long-haul aircraft in the coming months, with another three brand-new A330s due for delivery later this year.

The new business class cabin will also be progressively installed in all the airline's Boeing B747-400s and Airbus A340-300s.

'Guam-in-One'

AN all-expense-paid trip to Guam and other exciting prizes are at stake in the "Guam-in-One" promotional campaign organized by the Guam Visitors Bureau (GVB) in cooperation with Mizuno and Continental Micronesia.

The promo is aimed at promoting Guam as one of the most exciting golf destinations worldwide and at providing the local market additional information on the island, according to Kendrick Go GVB representative in the Philippines.

"Guam-in-One" began on the first Saturday of September at the Kagitingan Driving Range, Fort Bonifacio. Amateur golfers will be allowed to take a crack at the prize for five consecutive Saturday mornings at designated stalls. If no one makes the ace during the competition, the prize will be raffled off on the final day.

For more information, contact the GVB Manila Office at Unit 2306 Herrera Tower, Herrera corner Valero Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Or call 753-2556 to 57; e-mail kgold@qinet.net or visit the Guam website at www.visitguam.org.

Maritime safety

SHIPPING giant William, Gothong & Aboitiz Philippines (WG&A) has entered into a partnership program with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) on the exchange of expertise on maritime safety and security.

Under the program, WG&A will accommodate PCG personnel on board the company's inter-island vessels for on-the-job training on piloting and navigation, deck activities and engine work, among others.

"The PCG-WG&A Shipboard Training Program is a process through which both parties can truly benefit in order to further improve the implementation of safety measures on life and property at sea, maritime security and marine environmental protection," according to Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez.

The program allows PCG trainees to undergo a two-week training period on all ship functions, with particular emphasis on piloting and navigation, deck activities and engine work.

They will be given free board and lodging as well as access to the ship's recreational facilities during their stay.

The trainees will also be incorporated into the WG&A vessels' navigation and engine room watch detail. At the end of the training, each PCG trainee will submit a shipboard training report to document and assess the knowledge gained from the program.

WHITEWATER THRILLS

Participants take a wild ride down the Chico River in the province of Kalinga on the third leg of the Northern Adventure Tour sponsored by the new Shell-Citibank Gold MasterCard in cooperation with Ford Motors. Apply for the card by filling up a form and get as much as P1,400 worth of free Shell fuel as welcome gift upon approval. The next tour dates are Sept. 21-23, Oct. 2-4 and Oct. 16-18. Call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 for details.

More French here than in Paris

BY JULIEN COURT

The author is a 22-year-old Frenchman touring the Philippines. Following are his ruminations before, during and after a jeepney ride in Palawan, written, he said, with the help of his girlfriend's grammar check.—ED.

SQUEEZING myself between two passengers, I found myself half-sitting on the narrow seat in the crowded jeepney headed for Sabang.

This jeepney is a monstrous means of transportation designed to eat up the miles of broken tracks between Puerto Princesa City and my destination. Inside its belly were 20 people who were willing victims of the heat, and they did not resist the promise of paradise and an underground river in exchange for an uncomfortable 3-hour ride.

This is what I enjoy about Palawan. This is what drives travelers away from the city. Every capital and its province seem to have the same culture clash. Manila, Paris, or Rome, it is the same: Time is always in a hurry. But here in Palawan the sun knocks harder on our heads, and overwhelmed by the heat, even time seemingly takes its time. To be caught in a traffic jam would not be much different.

As I was thinking about this, I unconsciously smiled. The man sitting next to me, whose face seemed to have been sculpted by years of sunlight, was staring at me with curiosity. He took my smile as a signal to finally ask me the question that was burning in his mind: "You are not American, sir, are you?"

I smiled again, happy that someone had noticed that I was not just a tourist. "You're right," I said.

"Where are you from, sir?" he said.

"I am from France. I'm French," I said, and focused my attention on his reaction.

I could not help it. I like discovering stereotypes of foreigners. When I first arrived in Manila, I liked observing the people's expressions. From their faces, you could see what they thought of you and of the color of your skin. And as the man smiled back at me, I guessed that it probably wasn't a bad stereotype.

We started to speak with enthusiasm of the trips I had taken in the Philippines during my vacation. We were talking until the driver suddenly gunned the engine, and the jeepney spurted to life. The man, who had introduced himself as Eduardo, closed the conversation with a final sentence, because the noise of the jeepney had killed any attempt at a decent conversation.

Eduardo said, "You a lucky man. I am no-good Filipino. I have not visited enough of my islands."

I was thoughtful throughout the ride. How could this man live in the Philippines all his life and not have seen the island of Boracay, the wonderful old houses of Marinduque, even the smiling street children of Manila, as I had?

Soon I had to laugh, realizing that I couldn't be a good Filipino, too, however hard I tried. All of a sudden, I even felt a bit guilty about not touring other parts of my country. Was it possible that, like Eduardo, I am a no-good French citizen? I realized that during my time here in the Philippines, I had traveled through more of the islands than I ever had of France.

I am confident, though, that I represent my "douce France." Naturally, without forcing myself, I am quite different, with the differences that one cannot discover in one's own country of birth. Here, I am "the French guy," and I am sure that I give this impression to all the Filipinos I meet. I care for this image; it influences my traveler's ethic. Every traveler should have an ethic.

It's a strange conclusion, isn't it? I feel more French here than in Paris! The more distant you are from your country, the more you like it. And that makes the reunion even sweeter.

That is probably the point of view of the Filipino passengers on my flight from Hong Kong. After staying in London and France for years, they could not help but applaud as the plane touched down at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

I enjoyed talking to the man beside me during that flight, who told me of his wife and his son, whom he saw only once every 10 years. Similarly, I was thinking of how I would react when my own plane would land in Paris.

After seeing the Crocodile Farm and the Butterfly Garden around Puerto Princesa, I felt that I needed an escape from the province's capital. You are always in a circle, and within a circle is always another circle, and another—until you find your real self, no matter what country you are in. For now, though, I am finding myself in the Philippines.

When the jeepney finally deposited us weary passengers in Sabang, we all felt relaxed. I bid my friend Eduardo goodbye and started to walk down the beach to find a cottage. I wanted to see the jewels of Mother Nature in their natural habitat, and that desire has brought me across the world to the Philippines. Now, I'm drawing another circle.

I checked with the park ranger and started on my trek through the jungle to the underground river. I walked along the deserted white beaches.

I am a French guy backpacking through the Philippines. But I have yet to tour all the wonderful islands of the Philippines. For the meantime, this is my homeland.

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- Two winners will be drawn everyday to be held in Galinco office located at Bldg #2 FII-Cartoons Compound, Reliance cor. Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City. The draw will start on December 1, 2001 at 12:00 nn
- All entries will be drawn in the presence of DOH-BFAD representative.
- The grand draw and corresponding draw date are as follows.
  Draw date starts : December 1, 2001
  Grand Draw : December 25, 2001
- Winners will be announced at the following radio stations **DWRR 101.9** Manila, **DZRR 103.1** Baguio, **DYOO 101.5** Bacolod, **DYMC 91.1** Ilo-ilo, **DYLS 97.1** Cebu, **DXEC 91.9** Cagayan De Oro, **DXRR 101.1** Davao, **DYEC 92.7** Gen Santos and will also be notified via registered mail. A print ad announcing the names of the winners will also be published at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, Cebu Daily News and Sunstar Davao.
- Sequence of prizes are as follows:
  December 1-24 - 24 Scooters and 24 Nokia 3310 cellphones
  December 25 (Grand Draw) - 10 Personal Computers
- This is a nationwide contest.
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- Prizes must be claimed by the winners themselves or through an authorized representative presenting the following:
  a. Letter of Authorization c. 1 valid ID of the winner
  b. 1valid identification d. 1valid ID of the authorized representative
- Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the reciept of registered mail shall be forfeited with the approval of BFAD.
- Winners will be required to be photographed for advertising and publicity purposes.
- Deadline for submission of entries is on December 20, 2001.
- Should any conflict arise from the drawing of entries, the decision of GALINCO will be deemed final subject to the concurrence of the BFAD representative.
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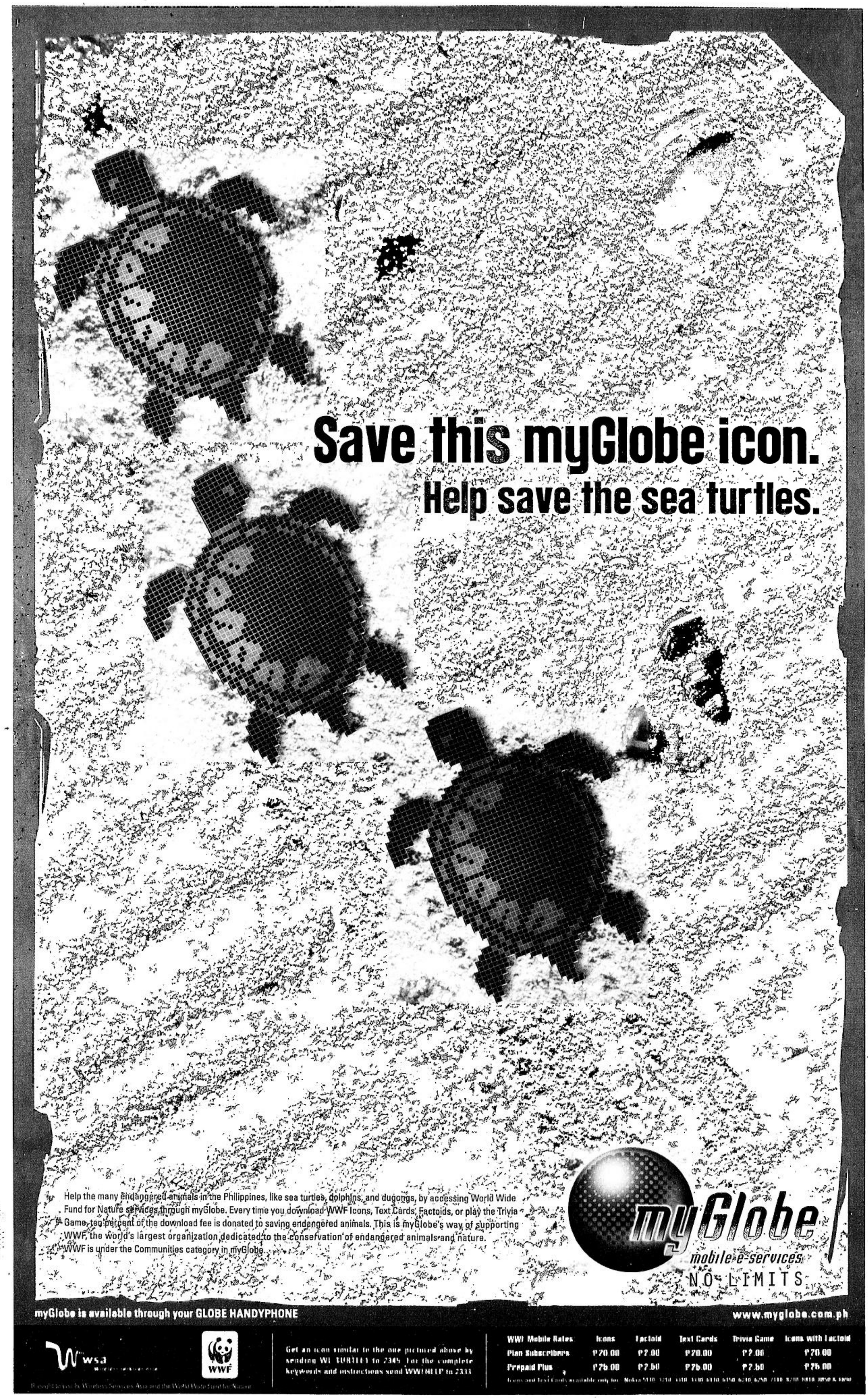
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'Bastusan' at the NCCA

COMPILED BY LITO ZULUETA

NOTED poet and literary scholar **Virgilio Almario** has been unceremoniously booted out as executive director of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts. The manner in which Malacañang and its bootlickers showed Almario the door shows the utter lack of noblesse oblige of the administration and its minions.

First, **Victoria Garchitorena** of the Presidential Management Staff wrote NCCA chair **Jaime Laya** "to cease and desist" from "making [himself] available for another term." The crudity of the letter is either a reflection of the quality of staff work at the PMS or the breeding of Garchitorena.

Laya had long ago offered to resign. But he had appealed to Malacañang bosses to observe the agency's rules and procedures in insinuating its favorites into the commission in order to ease the transition and to shield the arts and culture regime from politicking.

But to no avail. Malacañang went to work last Thursday on the second phase of its campaign. During the commission's meeting, Laya presented three agenda before the board: the chairmanship of the commission, former Sen. **Leticia Ramos-Shahani**'s unresolved gate-crashing into the Committee of Libraries and the status of Almario as a result of a Malacañang appointment replacing him with a trade and industry bureaucrat.

Laya pleaded that the matters should be resolved as they had held the commission in limbo for many months now. He excused himself as a gesture of self-inhibition because the chairmanship would be discussed.

When Tourism Undersecretary **Evelyn Pantig** presided over the meeting, Malacañang toadies, in a wily maneuver, voted to accept Almario's resignation immediately. Almario had long ago tendered his resignation, effective Dec. 31, 2001, to allow for a smooth transition. But majority of the members insisted that Almario's contract be terminated. The vote was close, 6-5, with Pantig casting the deciding ballot that sealed Almario's fate.

Culture vultures

MALACAÑANG had moved earlier to have Almario recalled by the University of the Philippines, where he had been on leave because of his work at the NCCA. Diliman chancellor **Emerlinda Roman** reportedly got communication from Garchitorena to recall Almario. It is said Roman was pressured

BASTUSAN/ p.F5

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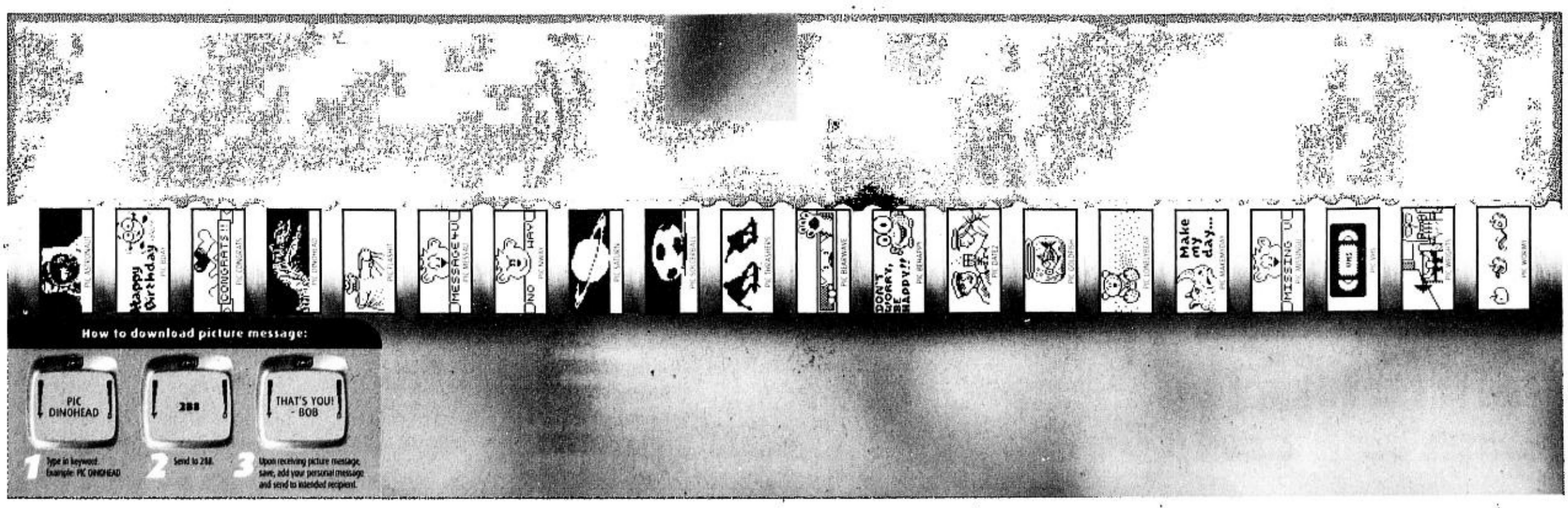


Lifestyle exhibit for men a success

PAUL Cabral, Rustom Padilla and Mia Florencio

TECHNO Marine models Eazel Don and Ariel Atendido

AMEN, an all-male lifestyle exhibit held Sept. 1-7 at the Glorietta, was a rousing success.

The event started with cocktails at the Lower Level of the Ayala Mall, venue of Talk About Toys, an aMEN exhibit on the latest models of Mercedes-Benz.

Techno Marine, the newest name in luxury watches, put on a mini fashion show. At the end of the show, models, all wearing their Techno Marine watches and T-shirts, rode in one of the Mercedes-Benzes.

The Glorietta 4 main lobby was venue of a photo exhibit called "50 Most Beautiful Filipino Men." It featured photographs by Raymund Isaac, Ronnie Salvacion and Raul Teehankee. Hanford and Hartmann men's undergarments sponsored the exhibit.

In front of the Nike Stadium at the second level was the Men at Work exhibit featuring gizmos and gadgets men love. Techno Marine also set up a display booth for their watches while Canon showed off digital cameras and printers. Microwarehouse displayed Palm Pilots and accessories. Gadgets Magazine, the first Philippine magazine on gadgets, gizmos and tools, also had its own exhibit.

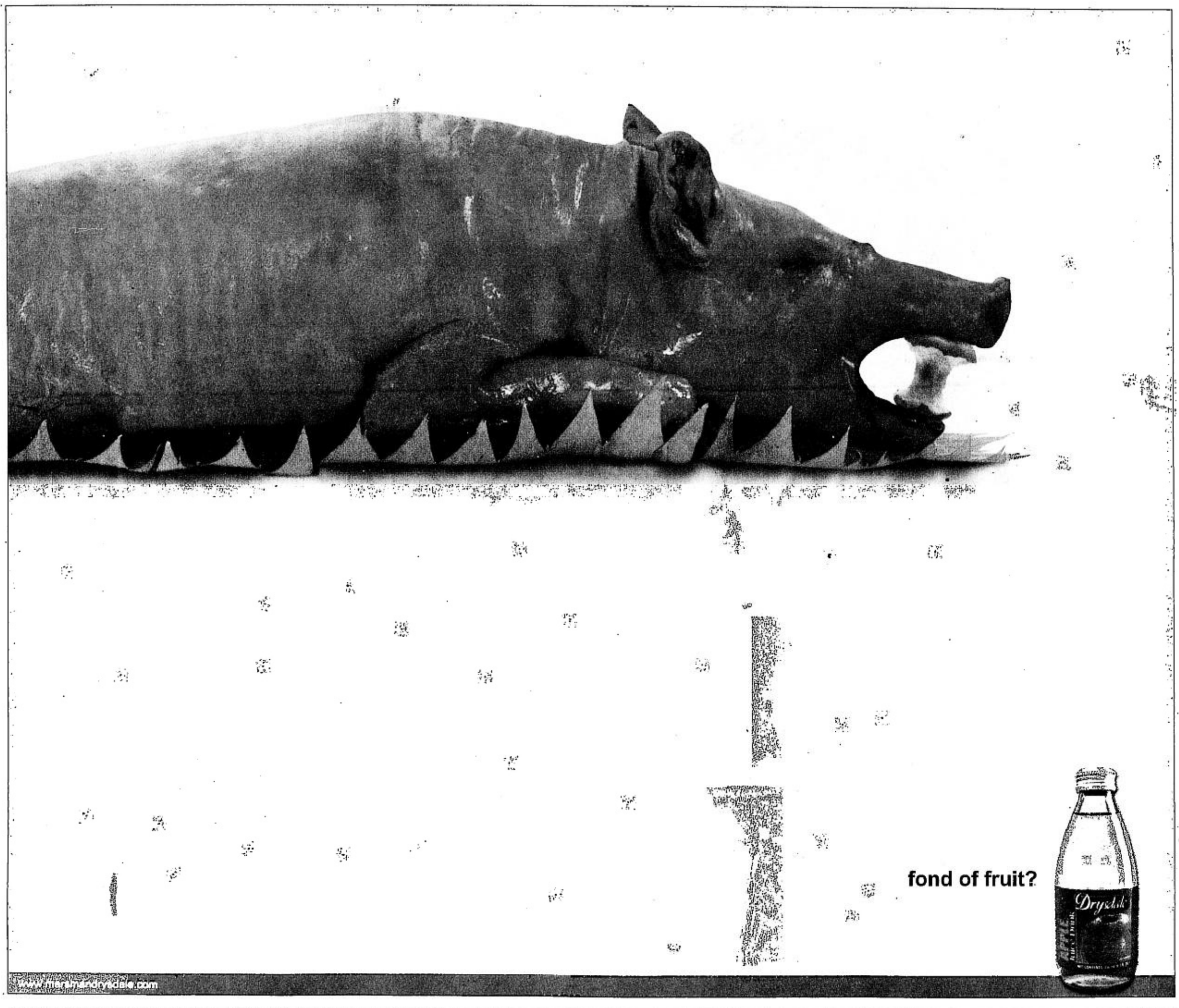
Perfumes distributed by LuxAsia were on show in the Maintenance Men exhibit in front of Food Choices. The Fwd Magazine exhibit offered maintenance tips.

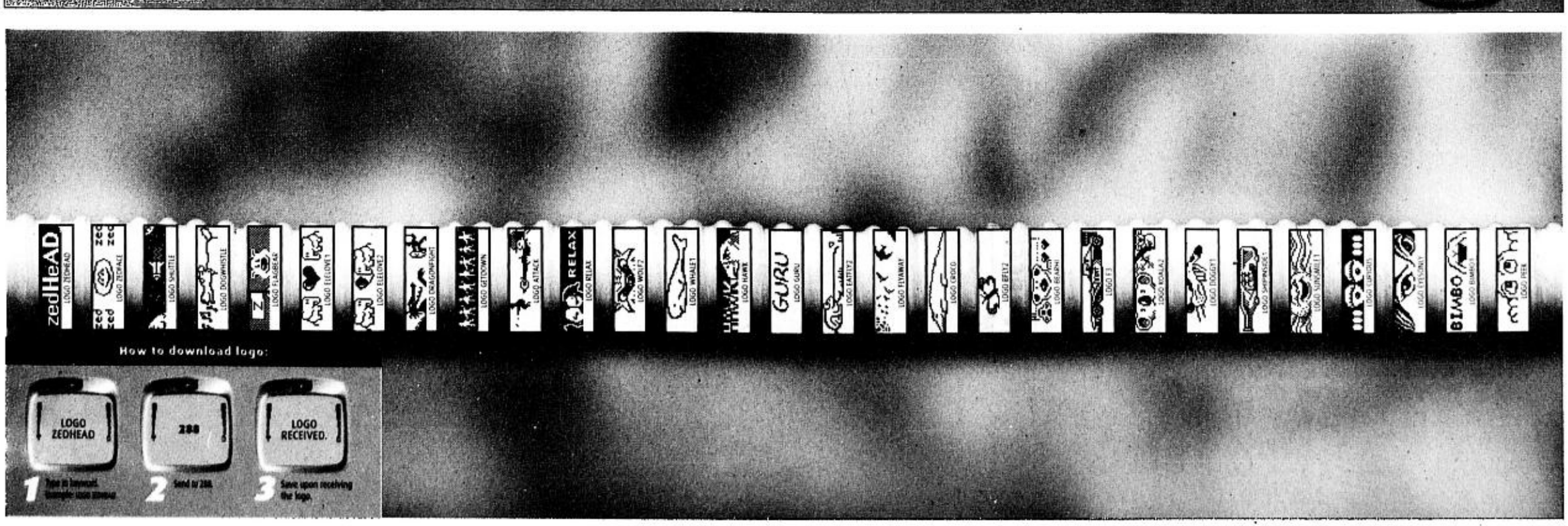
At the Home Zone for Men's Room, celebrities tried their hand at designing and setting up their dream rooms.

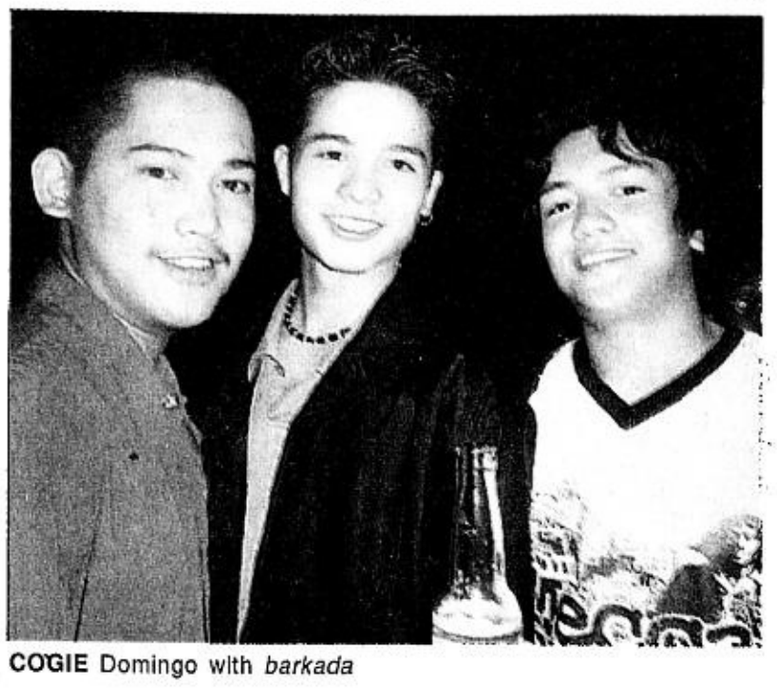
TJ Manatoc, editor of Fwd Magazine, and JC Gonzalez, host of "Breakfast" and "d.tour," hosted the entire show.

KRIS Aquino, Maurice Archache, Albert Martinez, Tina Maristela Ocampo, Ting Ting Cojuangco, Zsa Zsa Padilla and Piolo Pascual

MAURICE Archache, Kevin Vernal, Cogie Domingo, Albert Martinez, Keren Pascual, Tessa Prieto Valdes, Kris Aquino andi Joji Dingco





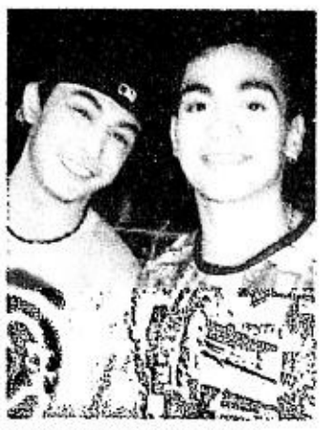


COGIE Domingo with *barkada*

DIRECTOR Chito Roño

AD board director Angge Suiza

DINA Bonnevie with Malu Maglutac



CARLOS Agassi with buddy Brian

PENSHOPPE owner Bernie Liu with Avala's David Raphael

Cool dude celebrates his 16th birthday

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

ACTOR and image model **Cogie Domingo** turned 16 last week and was given an SRO party at the trendy Dish by **Mother Lily Monteverde** and **Bernie Liu**, owner of Penshoppe. He was the happiest kid on the block.

The hottest teen idol in the country today received a brand-new Ford Expedition from his parents. His movie "Cool Dudes" with co-stars **Danilo Barrios** and **James Blanco** earned a whopping P5 million on opening day, according to movie publicist **Glenn Marcelo.**

Cogie says he has a lot of things to thank for. But on his natal day, he just wanted to be a cool celebrator.

PARENTS of the birthday boy, lawyer and Ms Domingo

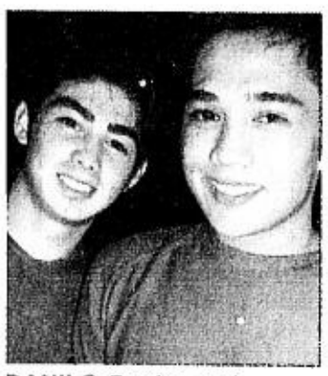
SEN. Manny Villar

VINA Morales

MARTIN Nievera and Tere Litton

PHOMELA Barrameda and Paolo Valdez

EPPI Quizon and Judy Anne Santos



DANILO Barrios and James Blanco

EUGENE Demate and Merlee Jayme of Ace Saatchi

ALESSANDRA de Rossi

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Toast to long life

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

ANGELITA **Lhuillier** celebrated her birthday with a formal dinner at Va Bene, the elegant Italian specialty restaurant at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, brainchild of her youngest daughter, **Margie Lhuillier**. Chef **Dietmar Dietrich** came up with an excellent menu, served by a group of impeccably trained waiters.

Gathered around their dear mom when the birthday cake was wheeled in were **Michel Lhuillier, Angie L. Mathieu** and Margie who is sporting a figure as lissome as a willow wand. There were toasts to more years for the celebrator, to Michel and **Amparito Lhuillier**'s wedding anniversary, which falls on the same day, and advanced greetings to Margie on her birthday a couple of weeks later.

The only absentee was **Philippe Lhuillier**, but we all know that he and **Edna** have their duties to attend to in Rome where he is the Philippine ambassador. Among the grandchildren present: **Charles Lhuillier** who came that day from Manila; **Michael** and **Joanna Lhuillier** with their sons **James** and **Matthew**; **Mikel Ugarte** sans **Claudine** who is in the US; **Cathy** and **Chris Darza** who supervised Va Bene and made sure every detail was covered.

Standing and sitting by Angelita at all moments was **Ken Meserve**. Among other close relations and dear friends were **Choy** and **Rosebud Sala, Teresing Mendezona, Harry** and **Carmen Campbell, Cheding Chiongbian** and all the ladies who gather every afternoon for their favorite game. They are so many they always have a "quorum."

* * *

More celebrations at Va Bene:

Dr. **Lourdes** and **Amor Narcise** hosted a luncheon for **Ana Maria Escaño** who came for a one-month vacation from Madrid where she is a missionary volunteer with the Vincentian Marian Youth. Ana has been gone for a year and everyone misses her for her efficient service she used to give at the BA/Qantas office here.

But she says she loves what she is doing, translating homilies from Spanish to English and vice versa, traveling through Spain, Portugal and Italy giving testimonials on spirituality and taking up studies (with honors) in theology at the university.

On this visit she spent precious time with her mother **Maria Pilar Escaño**, brother **Mon-Mon Escaño** who is with Globe, sister **Ma. Socorro E. Laplana** and her husband **Darwin Laplana** and their little boy **Ado**. There were lots of parties and outings organized for Ana, especially at the beautiful resort of Nailon in Bogo, at the northern tip of Cebu Island. She also made a sentimental journey to the ancestral home in Malitbog (Leyte del Sur) where his father **Ramon Escaño** topped the slate of councilors in the last elections.

Myra Gonzalez y Osmeña gave a dinner for her son **Bernardo Losada** and his wife **Carmina** on their first visit to the Philippines since they got married in Sevilla (Spain) last October. What's good at Va Bene? Asked Myra, the question was loaded with concern about maintaining one's figure. Everything on that menu card is really so tempting. The salads are definitely low-calorie, and there's always Lapu-Lapu Lucullus—steamed and doused in pumpkin sauce.

Myra and her youngest daughter, **Inma Losada**, took Bernie and Carmina to enjoy the resorts Cebu is famous for—Maribago Blue Water, White Sands, Costa Bella, the Shangri-La, etc. Those were rainy days and Carmina laughed that she'd have to return to Spain without a tan.

Bernie and Carmina had flown in on a direct flight from Madrid to Singapore, connecting to Cebu. They returned by the same route, stopping over at Singapore for a few days. They also spent some time in Sevilla with her parents before going to Estremadura where Bernie is in charge of the extensive family estates, part of the heritage of his grandparents, the Count and Countess de Bagaes.

* * *

What's the next happening at Va Bene? On Sept. 11, the Who Cares? Gang meets there for dinner, sparkling conversation, and because it is a Tuesday, dancing afterward on the floor above, at Pagcor's Teatro Casino.

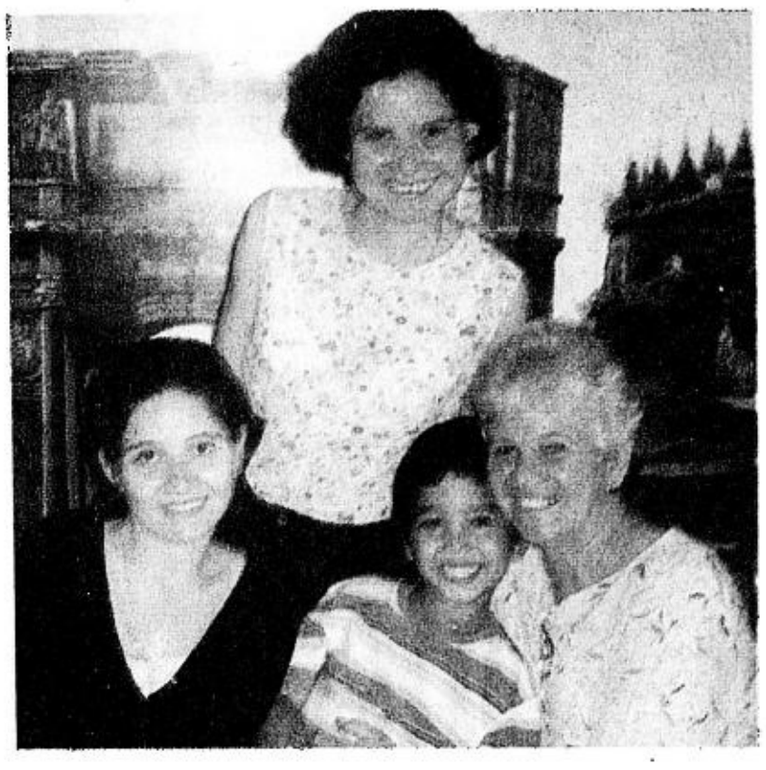
This was plotted at Europa Deli on Ramos Street the night the group feted **Chona Bernad Escaño** on her birthday. The best birthday gift she had was the return of husband **Jimmy Mercado** from a stint in New York where he took up an important course. Both Chona and Jimmy are dentists, with a "conjugal" clinic. They are popular with their patients because "they don't hurt." After Jimmy's recent studies, whispers **Chinggay Utzurrum**, he'll make your smile more radiant. She should know, for that's where she took ever-loving hubby **Joe U** who's just waiting for Colgate to sign him up.

Aside from Joe and Ching, Chona and Jimmy, also present at the dinner were **Joe** and **Lynn Suaco** (the leader of the group), **Terry Escaño Manguerra, Ralph** and **Ellen Zuluaga, Guimo** and **Inday Blanco, Alberto** and **Maritere de Rotaeche**, and **Eddie Dakay** who couldn't help but go to the splendid walnut grand piano from Switzerland to tinkle—Liberace style—melody after nostalgic melody. And the birthday song, of course.

MICHEL Lhuillier, Margie Lhuillier, Angelita Lhuillier and Angie L. Mathieu

BERNARDO Losada with wife Carmina and mom Myra

CHONA and Jimmy Mercado



ANA Maria Escaño (standing) with sis Ma. Socorro, nephew Ado and mom Ma. Pilar Escaño

Grand ball marks 78th anniversary

THE CROWNING of the Quezonian 1923 2001 muse, Babylyn Reyes, is one of the highlights of the 78th anniversary grand ball. Doing the honors are Sen. Edgardo Angara and Ruth Guingona, wife of Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona, shown here with the muse's escort, Richard Garcia.

THE QUEZONIAN 1923 had a successful celebration of its 78th anniversary at the Westin Philippine Plaza Grand Ballroom.

Among those who attended the grand ball to mark the anniversary were Sen. Edgardo Angara, Rep. Aleta Suarez, Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., Quezon Provincial Gov. Wilfredo Enverga and wife Grace, secretary Lilia de Lima, assistant secretary Mercy Gutierrez of the Department of Justice, Ruth Guingona, wife of Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona and Emma L. Reyes, secretary of the Senate.

Enverga and other leading Quezonians were at the receiption line to welcome the guests.

Others at the ball were Leandro Garcia and Jocelyn Lirio, this year's president; Quezonian 1923 adviser Don Ado Escudero, owner of the famed Villa Escudero; art patron Danny Dolor; Glady Cabunag, who is donating a piece of land for the Quezonian 1923 multipurpose center; former Bulacan Gov. Obet Pagdaganan and his wife Susan.

The rigodon de honor was choreographed by Budjing Danao. Another feature of the celebration was the doxology, which was sang by Ana Terol and Arturo Nievera and interpreted by the Manila Ballet. The Quezonian 1923 Youth Chapter, led by presidents Jaclyn Clemente and Royce Cabunag, presented a dance number choreographed by Danao. Friends of the Quezonian 1923, the Tango Group, presented a modern dance number. Dance music was provided by Gloria Gatmaitan and Romy Rule.

PRESENTING the plaque to the reigning muse are gentleman president lawyer Leandro Garcia and lady president Jocelyn Lirio.

LIRIO welcomes the guest of honor, Sen. Edgardo Angara, as Garcia looks on. Also in the picture are Danny Dolor and secretary of the Senate Emma L. Reyes (partially hidden).

OFELIA Clement (with back turned) is welcomed by the members of the reception line. From left, Grace Enverga, wife of Quezon Gov. Wilfredo Enverga, art connoisseur and philanthropist Danny Dolor, Lirio, Garcia and sociocivic leader Tanini Serrano de Leon

TANINI Serrano de Leon is welcomed by Lirio, Garcia and Quezon Governor Enverga

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo opens the gate valve during the inauguration rites of the biggest Tubig Para sa Barangay project of Manila Water at the Manggahan floodway. Assisting President Arroyo are Rizal Gov. Nini Ynares and Manila Water board chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala.

GMA inaugurates water project

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo recently inaugurated the first phase of the Manggahan Floodway Water Supply project of the Manila Water Co.

The project will supply potable water to more than 200,000 urban poor residents living along the 18-km stretch of the man-made canal. Constructed by the Department of Public Works and Highways, it will divert monsoon floodwaters from the Marikina River and its tributaries to Laguna de Bay.

Manila Water is currently building its biggest Tubig Para sa Barangay project along the floodway as a response by the Ayala Group and Manila Water to Arroyo's call to the private sector to give priority to the needs of the poor.

The project, in coordination with the local governments of Pasig City, Cainta and Taytay, DPWH, National Housing Authority, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and various people's organizations, will lay over 18,000 meters of main pipelines along Manggahan's west and east banks. It will bring clean, affordable water to over 35,000 urban poor families, or some 200,000 residents by 2001 and the first quarter 2002.

Manila Water is boosting its capital expenditure by as much as P2 billion in the next two years to lay new pipelines and other facilities, particularly in the city's poor densely populated urban centers.

The Manggahan project is being built in three phases. Phase I, which the President inaugurated, is already complete, supplying water to over 150 families in Pasig City. In two months, Phase II will be completed and will service 10,000 families. The last stage, Phase III, will be finished by July 2002 and will benefit some 25,000 families.

The Tubig Para sa Barangay program was conceptualized by Manila Water in partnership with the government and urban poor communities.

As it gradually improves the pipelines within the city's primary distribution network, Manila Water is now setting its sights on out-of-the-way areas like Masinag in Marikina and Antipolo, the Manggahan Floodway in Pasig, Taytay and Cainta, the Taguig-Pateros municipalities and Montalban, Rizal.

Manila Water aims to bring these areas under its TPSB program in line with Arroyo's thrust to fast-track the delivery of basic services and livelihood opportunities to the poor.

'Bastusan' at the NCCA

(From page F1)

to issue the recall because Diliman's budget was hanging in the balance.

Why the squeeze play and the dirty games in a commission that supposedly promotes refinement and culture? Simple: the endowment fund of the NCCA. Garchitorena herself has endorsed in writing several requests by congressmen from Bulacan and Negros for NCCA funding of local projects, including the renovation of the Barasoain Church in Malolos whose last renovation was in 1998. NCCA insiders said a relative of a Malacañang official has also been burning the lines, following up on his projects for funding by the commission. The relative himself is a top official of a Central Luzon province and a movie actor wannabe.

Now, it may be some of these projects have merits. But the way Malacañang is husbanding these projects for the benefit of its sycophants augurs bad for a transparent and professional system of awarding arts and culture endowments. That system, which is Laya-Almario's shining achievement, now faces corruption.

RESIGNED NCCA chair Jaime Laya. NCCA legacy in danger.

ROSEBUD OR ROSE-BRAT? Civil society pretender Presidential Management Staff head Vicky Garchitorena, in cheongsam, is master of uncivil politics.

VIRGILIO ALMARIO. Unlawfully terminated?

DOING A MATA HARI. Tourism Undersecretary Evelyn Pantig, wearing the fashion statement of the moment, is double agent for arts and tourism.

Arts as tourism

OBVIOUSLY, Malacañang has no vision for the arts and culture. It has appointed a trade official in charge of handicrafts and other small businesses to replace Almario. Apparently, it looks at the cultural regime as a cottage industry. Now with Pantig as presiding NCCA officer, Malacañang apparently looks at arts and culture as mere tourism.

When Laya was invited to attend an exchange of cultural notes between the Philippines and Singapore, he begged off, saying his position as Philippine culture head was tenuous. He directed the Singapore officials to consult with the Department of Foreign Affairs. The DFA consulted Malacañang, which sent Pantig as the country's cultural representative. In the ceremonies, the Singaporeans were at a loss during the talk of the Philippine cultural representative. She did not talk about the arts. She talked about tourism.

Laya's last hurrah

THE EVER-PROPER man that he is, Laya, after Almario's ouster, tendered anew his resignation, effective immediately.

Perhaps their most shining legacy is to be born yet. It's the National Gallery of Philippine Art, which will be housed in the old legislative building. The gallery will house the collections of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Intramuros Administration and National Museum.

The establishment of the showcase will cost P50 million. Before they fell victim to the uncivil politics of Garchitorena, a self-styled civil society champion, Laya and Almario succeeded in having the budget passed by the commission: P50 million. They leave secure in their legacy.

Traffic blues eased

TRAFFIC enforcers generally have a bad reputation, but the one at the intersection of President Osmeña (South Superhighway) and San Andres deserves some kudos. With the lights not working at around 8:30 p.m. on a rainy Tuesday, he was diligently doing his job of directing traffic, unmindful that he was getting soaked as he did not have a raincoat. He remained quite cheerful about the whole thing, simply scratching his head when some bully of a truck driver ignored his hand signals.

'Smart' student

TIME was when things were so simple. If you were not ready for a test in class, you simply scribble notes on your handkerchief or copy from your seatmate. But the times, they are a-changin' indeed.

On Tuesday this week, a college student at the Ateneo de Manila University was not prepared to take a quiz in his Filipino class. He didn't want to cheat either.

So guess what he did? He threw a tear-gas bomb in the air-conditioned classroom. The whole class panicked and rushed out, including the teacher.

During the investigation immediately afterward, no one in the class could say who did it. But three students were nonetheless nabbed for further questioning. It appears that just before class started, the culprit sprayed mace on the teacher's table—before the teacher arrived in the classroom. No wonder the teacher felt faint at the start of the class.

That must have been Plan A. But since she proceeded with the quiz, Plan B had to be set into action.

School authorities are now mulling bag checks on campus.

FREE SPEECH

UST Hospital clarifies rates

WE would like to thank you for the inclusion of the University of Santo Tomas Hospital in your comparative presentation of rates for various items being charged by subject hospitals.

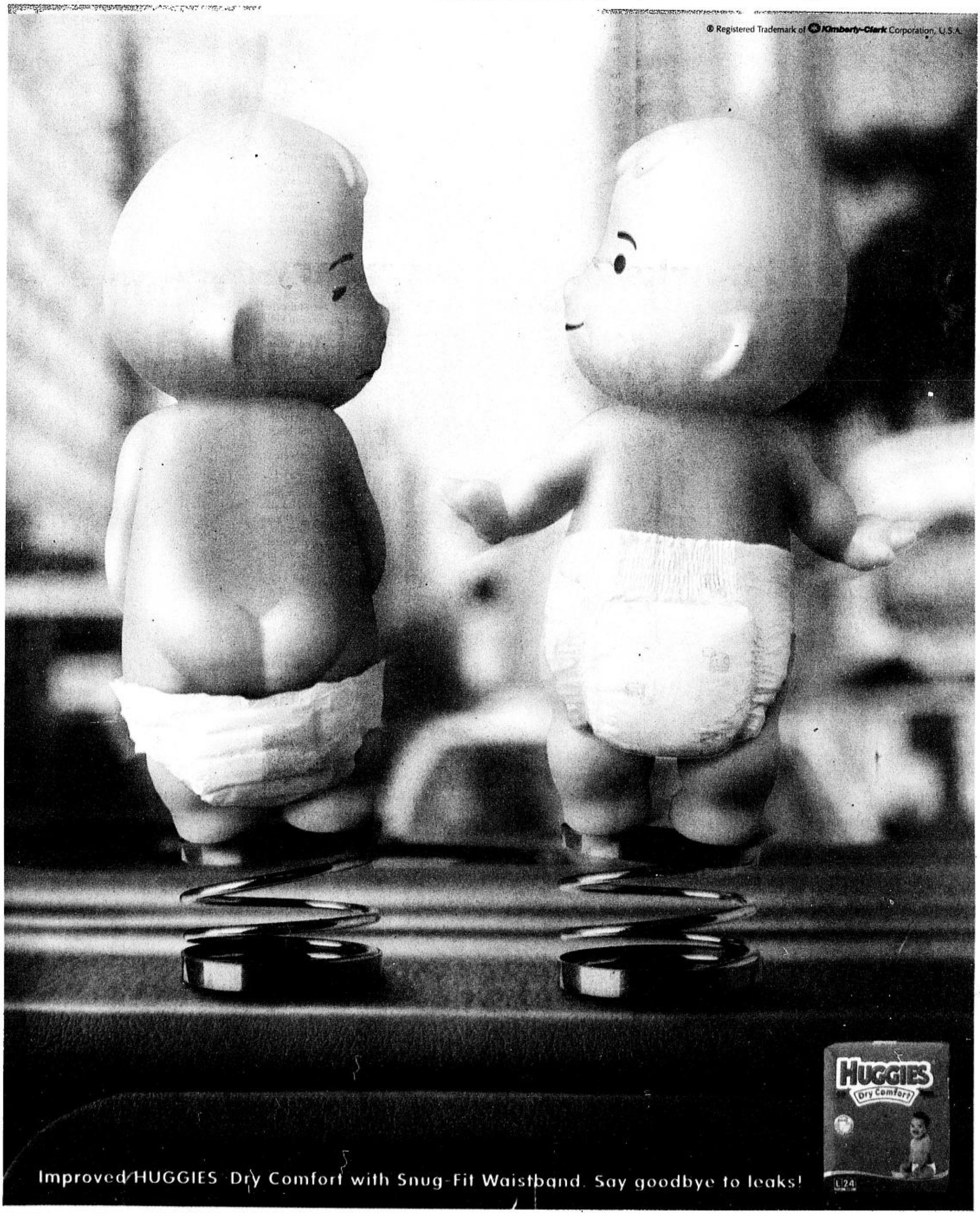
We, however, noted the inaccuracy of certain items that appeared in the report and we started to wonder about the source of your information. For instance, our charge for complete blood count or CBC is only P280 and not P400. We charge only P85 for urinalysis and not P130 as reported.

You may consider the inaccuracies as insignificant but they are not to us. We do not want our patients or the public to have the impression that our hospital is charging exorbitant amount for such simple tests and procedures. Furthermore, we are as much concerned as you are in putting things in their right perspective.

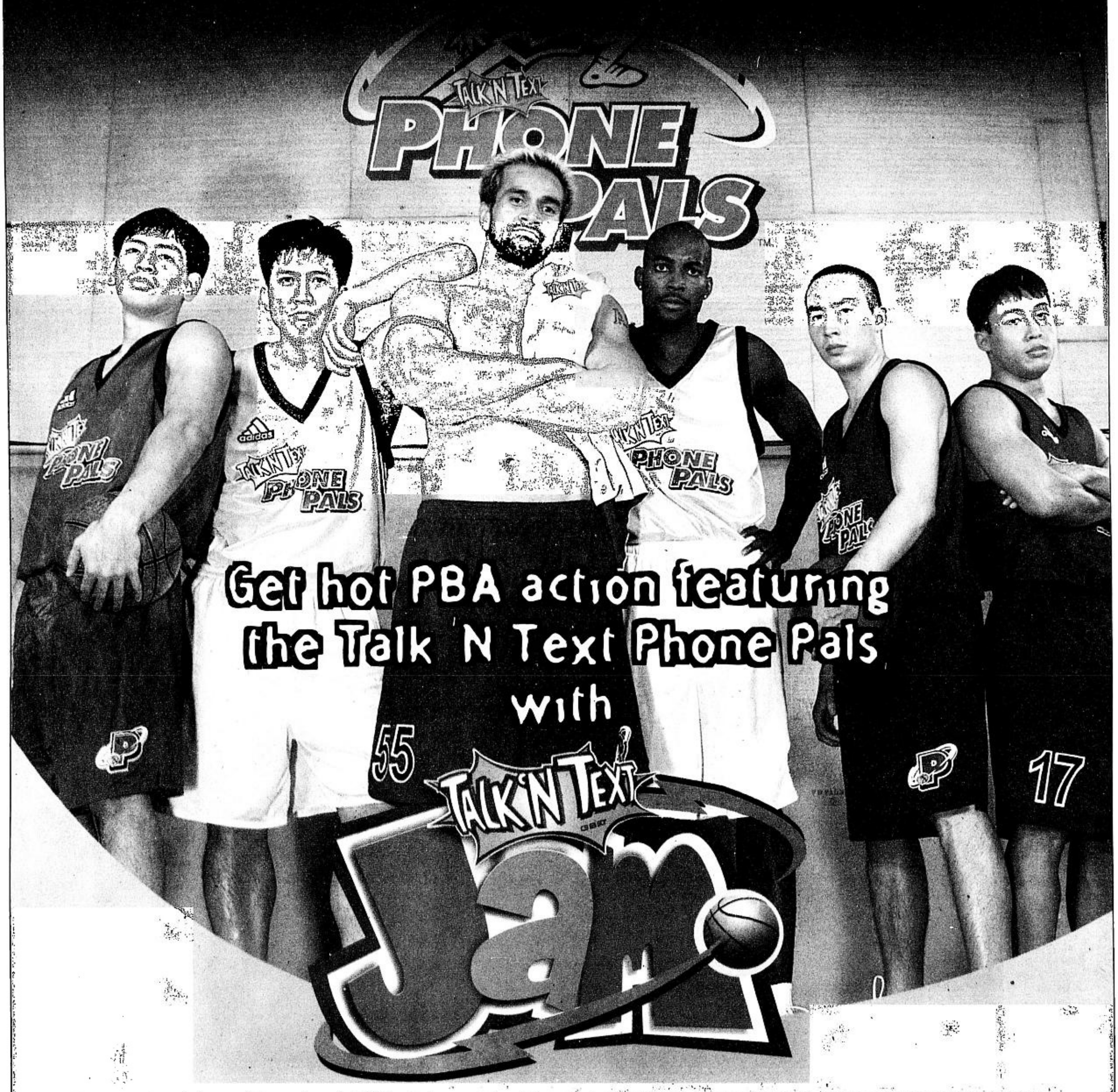
We will appreciate if something can be done to correct the inaccuracies.

(Sgd.) CARLITO S. VILLANUEVA, lawyer
HR and Admin Director

The data were culled from the various departments and divisions of the UST Hospital providing the different services. The hospital management had been asked formally to provide the information, but it did not cooperate.—Ed.



Jam muna tayo!



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To start interacting with your idol, type PAL <PLAYER NAME> and send to 290. To get the list of available Talk 'N Text Phone Pals, type <LIST> and send to 290.

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To know your idol's favorite things, type FAVE <CATEGORY> and send to 290.
Example: Food, movie, song etc.

Superstar Skeds

CAL
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To get updated on your idol's daily calendar, type CAL <MM/DD> and send to 290.

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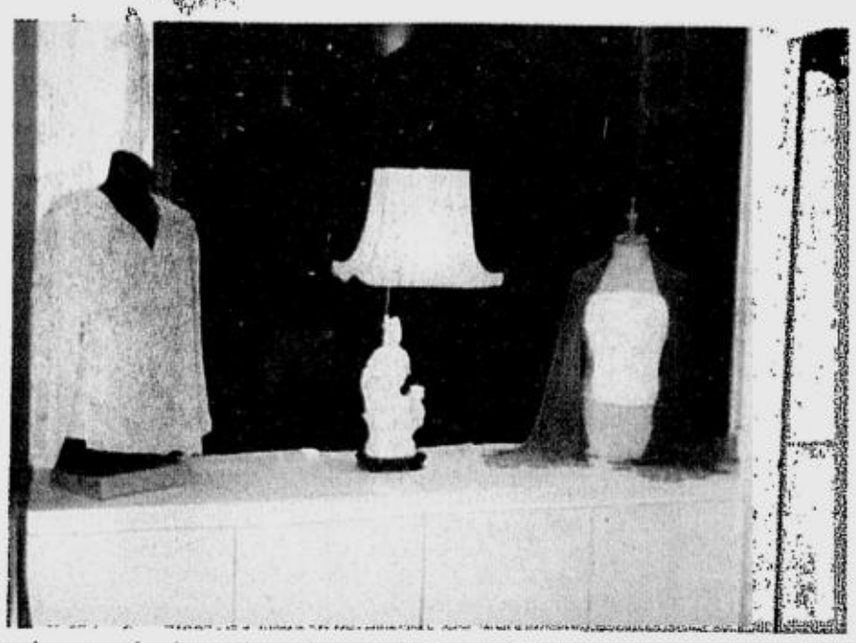
Showcase of balance and inner beauty

(From page F8)

clients do more for them than any full-page ad in any international glossy. Jackie Chan showed the label of his jacket on "The Tonight Show." He ordered a Blanc de Chine suit as a gift for his "Rush Hour" co-star Chris Tucker. Tucker loved it so much that he ordered five more for himself. Both of them ended up wearing their suits on the cover of Newsweek.

This year, Michelle Yeoh wore Blanc de Chine to Cannes. "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" director Ang Lee wore Blanc de Chine to the Golden Globes and the Independent Spirit Awards where he won Best Director on both occasions. He wore an Armani tux to the Oscars and funny enough, didn't win Best Director. Hong Kong superstar Andy Lau also chose a Blanc de Chine wardrobe for the Toronto Film Festival this September.

The transliteration of Blanc de Chine is "white from China" but in the ceramics world it is the name for the prized 18th-century white porcelain from Fujian. The store is named after the purity and simplicity of these ceramic pieces. Blanc de Chine was born out of one man's quest for the perfect mien lap (Chinese traditional padded men's jacket). Owner Kin Yeung came back to Hong Kong in 1991 from the United States only to find inexpensive and shoddily constructed mien laps in souvenir stores. His search for the perfect mien lap led to the Pedder Street store opening in 1993. Since then, the store has added cheongsams, home furnishings, hooded car coats, dai cum sams (loose Chinese tunic and pants) and cheung suns (formal military jacket popularized by Sun Yat Sen).



THE STORE'S prices are far from cheap but they're value for money.

BLANC de Chine is a Zen-like blend of Chinese and colonial style.

BLANC de Chine's interiors

Promoting Chinese culture

"It has always been Mr. Yeung's dream that Chinese men wear the cheung sun instead of the tux," says Ms Reeve. Through Blanc de Chine, Mr. Yeung wanted to promote Chinese culture and its products. "Why does 'made in China' have to be cheap in fabric and construction? Why not have a top grade level?" says Ms Reeve, expressing the sentiments of her employer. There are eight elements that make up every Blanc de Chine product. They are also elements that should make up one's life: simplicity, serenity, functionality, comfort, sensuality, subtlety, harmony and purity. Mr. Yeung believes that clothing must look good not just from outside but also inside. This belief, aside from being an elementary idea of dressmaking, is for him, about "maintaining balance and inner beauty."

And now for the price of beauty, it's far from cheap (as far as the Philippines is from having a stable currency) but it's value for money. The shop takes pride in their made-to-order business where a suit starts at about $1,000. Made-to-order cheongsams start at $800. They have made beaded dresses costing over $3,000. An outfit takes about three to four weeks to make with a mock-up fitted within a week after placing an order. A second fitting follows another week after the mock-up fitting. Blanc de Chine uses only silk linings and all embroidery is by hand. Customers can choose from the finest Chinese silks, laces and cottons from Switzerland, Italy and France.

The company also has a ready-to-wear line of 100 styles that come out every season. Cheongsams go for about $500, and the best dress in the house, a black crepe cap-sleeved chi pao (a looser type of cheongsam), goes for $600. Cheongsams at Blanc de Chine are in the 1930's Shanghai style, not the tight Suzy Wong style which Ms Reeve thinks is an insult to Chinese women.

Because of its fine fabric quality and flawless workmanship, Blanc de Chine does a lot of bridal business. Depending on the style and fitting schedule, a wedding dress can take anywhere from a couple of months with three to four fittings to 10 months. Not a tall order compared to Vera Wang where you can wait as long as a year. This fall, the store will be carrying sweaters using cashmere from the finest makers, the Italian house of Loro Piana. It will also be introducing a younger and sportier line called Bleu de Chine.

Blanc de Chine is at #210 Pedder Building, Pedder St., Central, Hong Kong; tel (852)2524-7875. In New York it is at 675 Fifth Avenue, 3/F, NewYork City 10022; tel (212)355-3636.

What do you think of wearing national costumes? Would you wear a cheongsam, ao dai or even a terno in your daily life? Tell me what you think at HYPERLINK mailto:style-dowager@hotmail.com

The fall Hong Kong Celebrities New and Second-Hand Fashion Sale will be on Oct. 8-13 at the HK Exhibition Center, Room 404-406. 4/F, Low Block, China Resources Building, 26 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong. Call Ms Lee at The Venue at (852)2543-3313 or thevenue@netvigator.com.

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Trial Packs: (Packs of 4)	1/4 point
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Economy Packs: (Packs of 20, 24, 28, 30)	2 points
Jumbo Box: (Box of 44, 48, 52, 56)	4 points

PULL-UPS®

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Packs of 9, 11	3 points

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- Print ads in leading national broadsheet.
- Inserts in Good Housekeeping and Metro Working Mom Magazine, October 2001 Issue
- Major Supermarkets (HUGGIES® Diapers section): *GMA only:* SM, Ever, Landmark; *GMA & South Luzon:* Rustans, Uniwide, Robinson's, Waltermart, South Supermarket; *Cebu:* Metro Gaisano, SM

3.) To place your order, completely fill-out the Order Form and do any one of the following:
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  - SBR Bldg., 33 Ortigas Center, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
  - Sterling Place Bldg., 2302 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City

Just submit the completely filled-out Order Form together with the required HUGGIES® / PULL-UPS® / GOODNITES® points and the corresponding amount (CASH or CREDIT CARD will be accepted) and get your Little Tikes items instantly.

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Enclose the Order Form in an envelope and mail it to:
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Sterling Place, 2302 Pasong Tamo Ext. Makati City

OR

Fax your Order Form to (02)-8410284 or (02)-6342450

For mailed or faxed orders, please indicate your Credit Card Account where you want to charge the amount of the items you ordered (this is the only mode of payment accepted unless you are claiming your items personally from the Little Tikes showroom). Only orders with complete requirements/information will be processed. DO NOT include the HUGGIES® / PULL-UPS® / GOODNITES® wrappers when you send the HUGGIES® Order Form. These wrappers will be collected upon delivery of the items to you. NO POINTS, NO DELIVERY.

4.) For Mailed or Faxed orders, you will need to wait for 4 to 8 weeks (4-6 weeks for Metro Manila & Luzon and 6-8 weeks for Visayas and Mindanao) for your orders to be delivered. For verification purposes, please make sure that you indicate a contact number where you can conveniently reached prior to delivery of items.

5.) Deliveries within Metro Manila are free of charge. For other areas, delivery charges are as follows:

Items	DELIVERY CHARGES		
	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
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Little 3 in 1 Sports Set	55.00	100.00	110.00
Studio Design Table and Chairs	170.00	220.00	230.00
Roar n Rev Monster Truck	265.00	315.00	345.00
All-in-One Wagon	545.00	595.00	635.00
Electronic Shot Clock Basketball	280.00	330.00	350.00
Little Landscaper Garden Hand Tools & Watering Cans	55.00	55.00	60.00
Sleepytime Express Toddler Bed	1,550.00	1,600.00	1,850.00

** For areas with delivery charges, please make sure that you include the delivery charge/s for the item/s you are ordering in the computation of your payment.*

6.) There is no limit to the number of items that you can avail of for as long as you have the required HUGGIES® / PULL-UPS® / GOODNITES® wrappers and the corresponding amount.

7.) Promo period is from **September 1 to December 31, 2001.** Redemption is valid until **March 1, 2002** (per DTI ruling).

** For more information about the featured Little Tikes Toys, you can call (02) 813-7828 local 414*

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PAYMENT Please indicate the method of payment and include your credit card information.

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Credit Card
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Name appearing on Card _____
Credit Card Number _____ Card Expiry Date _____ Month Year
Card holder's Signature
CBC# _____
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☑ Please tick the box to indicate the items you wish to order.

Qty	Items	Regular Price	Discounted Price	Total Points Required (Qty X points per piece)	Total Cost (Qty X Discounted Price)
☐	Swing Along Climber	Php15,500.00	Php7,750.00		
☐	Little 3 in 1 Sports Set	3,500.00	1,750.00		
☐	Studio Design Table and Chairs	5,000.00	2,500.00		
☐	Roar n Rev Monster Truck	9,000.00	4,500.00		
☐	All-in-One Wagon	15,500.00	7,750.00		
☐	Electronic Shot Clock Basketball	8,500.00	4,250.00		
☐	Little Landscaper Hand Tools and Watering Cans	535.00	267.50		
☐	Sleepytime Express Toddler Bed	25,000.00	12,500.00		
			Sub-total		
			+ Delivery Charge (for areas outside Metro Manila)		
			GRAND TOTAL		

Items	DELIVERY CHARGES		
	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Swing Along Climber	Php 545.00	Php 595.00	Php 635.00
Little 3 in 1 Sports Set	55.00	100.00	110.00
Studio Design Table and Chairs	170.00	220.00	230.00
Roar n Rev Monster Truck	265.00	315.00	345.00
All-in-One Wagon	545.00	595.00	635.00
Electronic Shot Clock Basketball	280.00	330.00	350.00
Little Landscaper Garden Hand Tools Watering Cans	55.00	55.00	60.00
Sleepytime Express Toddler Bed	1,550.00	1,600.00	1,850.00

** For areas with delivery charges, please make sure that you include the delivery charge for the item you are ordering in the computation of your payment.*

BLANC de Chine's impeccable cheongsams

Showcase of balance and inner beauty

BY KITTY GO

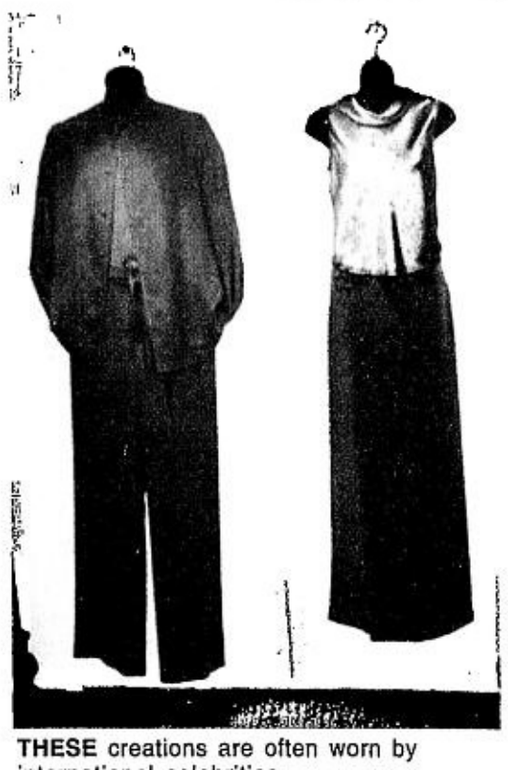
HONG KONG—One of the countless things any tourist seeks to buy in Hong Kong is a cheongsam. From the inexpensive, ready-made, polyester satin ones that flood Tsim Sha Tsui to thousand-dollar custom pieces from any of the tailors at the Mandarin or the Peninsula, the choice is unlimited and very confusing. An exceptionally well-fitting cheongsam is usually custom-made. However, there is one place where you can get cheongsams (and other classic pieces) of impeccable quality both off the rack and made to order. No doubt you'll make a statement, albeit a subtle one.

One of Hong Kong's best-kept fashion secrets is Blanc de Chine. Linda Reeve, director of Blanc de Chine told Women's Wear Daily, "It seems everyone wants to keep Blanc de Chine as their little secret." The Hong Kong shop, a cozy yet Zen-like combination of Chinese and colonial style, is tucked in the Pedder Building, one of the older buildings in Central. It is also two floors above the "more famous" but ultra-commercial and touristy Shanghai Tang. Blanc de Chine presently has a branch on Fifth Avenue in New York and will soon be moving to an 8,000-sq ft flagship at 595 Fifth Avenue (and 48th). The store specializes in the elegant and refined style of East meets West, marrying Chinese details such as frog buttons and Mao collars with Western silhouettes and ease, without the look of a Chinese costume. From their silk pillow travel blanket to padded jackets, the workmanship is flawless. Certainly, celebrities such as Jackie Chan, Michelle Yeoh, Michael Jackson, Tiger Woods, Steven Segal, Juliette Binoche and Jay Leno can't be wrong.

Blanc de Chine does not advertise but their

SHOWCASE/ p.F7

A store in Hong Kong specializes in the elegant and refined style of East meets West, marrying Chinese details without the look of a Chinese costume



THESE creations are often worn by international celebrities.

Take a shot at these picture-perfect prizes.

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(2) Sony FD Trinitron WEGA 34" with DVD Home Theater System (KV-ES34M80 & DAV-S300)

(4) Piaggio Vespa PX 150

(12) Sony Digital Handycam DCR-PC9

(8) Compaq Ipaq Pocket PC

(12) Sony Cybershot DSC-F505V

(10) Sony FD Trinitron WEGA 29" KV-XA29M90

(10) Sony VX Series Mini Component

(10) Oakley Penny

(10) Game Boy Advance

(20) Sony CD Walkman

(10) Oakley Minute Jacket

(10) Nike Triax 50 Laps

www.zed.com

How to register for the promo:

1 Type in JOIN GETZ <name>/address> Ex. JOIN GETZ GREG MARTIN/ 108 HERRERA ST., MAKATI CITY

2 Send to 288.

3 You have now registered.

To qualify for the raffle promo, you must first register before you download or send. To get the latest list of the newest ring tones, logos, icons, and picture messages, type in TONE NEW, LOGO NEW, ICON NEW, or PIC NEW and send to 288. Available for selected Nokia cell phones. P12.00 for every successful download. For keywords of other zed services, type HELP and send to 288.

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Promo until October 7, 2001.

See flyers for more details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0867. Series of 2001.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB MARKET
Where You Find The Best.

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RATES
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MANAGERIAL

TAKE A SLICE OF OUR CAREER OPPORTUNITIES!

greenwich

Being the NUMBER ONE pizza-pasta food chain also means creating ONE-OF-A-KIND career individuals.

ASSISTANT STORE MANAGER (ASM)

(Manila, Quezon City, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Antipolo)

- ☐ 21-27 years old; graduate of a four-year business/management course
- ☐ Articulate, people-oriented, flexible, willing to work on rotating shifts and a team player
- ☐ Will take charge of day-to-day store operations, administration and implementation of standard operating procedures
- ☐ We invite ***FRESH GRADUATES*** who possess strong leadership skills

TRAINING SPECIALIST (TS)

- ☐ Male or Female, 23-28 years old, graduate of Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Mass Communication or Hotel and Restaurant Management
- ☐ With at least 2 years experience in training needs analysis, design and conduct, preferably in a QSR set up
- ☐ With excellent written and verbal communication ability
- ☐ Flexible and adaptable; can maintain effectiveness in varying environments and situations
- ☐ Self-motivated and energetic; able to handle work pressure
- ☐ Creative; computer-savvy in MS Windows applications (Word, Excel and Powerpoint)

CORPORATE ACCOUNTANT (CA)

- ☐ Male or Female, 21-25 years of age, graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy from a reputable school
- ☐ With at least 2 years work-related experience
- ☐ Knowledgeable in Accounting functions such as analysis of accounts (payables & receivables) & preparation of accounts payable vouchers
- ☐ Self-motivated and hardworking; must be a good team-player
- ☐ Proficient with MS Windows applications (Word, Excel and Powerpoint)

Interested parties should send their comprehensive resumé with contact telephone number, recent 2x2 colored photo, and Transcript of Records to:

HRD-Selection and Hiring
CODE:_____
G/F Matias Bldg., Aurora Blvd. corner Boston St., Cubao, Quezon City
E-MAIL ADDRESS: **apply@greenwich.com.ph**

(Previous applicants need not apply)

WE ARE INVITING YOU TO MOVE ON WITH US!

In line with the development of our prime properties including a 100-hectare premium property, the largest parcel of undeveloped land with clear title located beside Ayala Alabang in Las Piñas City, we are now looking for dynamic individuals to fill in the ff. positions:

- **GENERAL MANAGER** for Real Estate
- **VICE PRESIDENT** for Sales & Marketing
- **VICE PRESIDENT** for Business Dev't.

Candidates for the above-mentioned vacancies must have at least 5 years extensive experience/direct involvement in Real Estate, Planning, Marketing Development and Sales in a middle management to senior capacity, at least 30 but not over 35 years of age, with good public relations and knowledge in dealing with government agencies, self starter, trustworthy, excellent communication skills, analytical, innovative, flexible in handling stress, pressures and meeting tight schedules.

We offer competitive compensation package (open salary depending on experience and qualifications) plus numerous benefits to successful candidates. Interested parties may come personally or send their comprehensive resumé with picture and transcript of records to:

SVP-HRD, 4/F State Centre Building #333 Juan Luna Street, Binondo, Manila. Tel. nos. 242-1521-36, with fax nos. 242-0614 or 242-1227. You can also reach us through our e-mail address: stateinc@info.com.ph.

CATHAY PACIFIC

is in need of a

SALES SUPERVISOR

Directly reporting to the Sales Department Head and supervising 8 people

Applicants must have the following qualifications:
* Not older than 37 years of age, with at least five (5) years of Sales Supervisory experience preferably in the hotel or travel industry
* Excellent rapport and extensive trade connections
* Outstanding communication and negotiation skills
* Must be PC-literate
* Proven track record in achieving revenue targets and in generating accounts
* Must be dynamic, innovative and creative

Send application with CV and 2x2 recent colored photo before 15 September 2001 to:
Sales Supervisor
Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd.
M.C.P.O Box 2585

Max's RESTAURANT — CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

For its continuous expansion program

One of the leading restaurants in the country that has kept the legendary "Sarap to the Bones" delicious Filipino tradition has career opportunities for its soon to open branches in San Mateo, Rizal, Calamba, Laguna and Metro Manila.

BRANCH MANAGER

- ☑ Graduates of BSHRM or related courses;
- ☑ Minimum 5 years working experience; 3 years in supervisory level.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

- ☑ Male/Female, at least 23 years old;
- ☑ Preferably graduates of BSHRM, BSBA, BSC or related courses;
- ☑ Computer literate (Excel, Powerpoint, Word)

DINING SUPERVISORS / ASSISTANT DINING SUPERVISORS

- ☑ Male/Female, at least 25 years old;
- ☑ Preferably graduates of BSHRM, BSBA, BSC or other related courses;
- ☑ Minimum 2 years working experience as Dining Supervisor or Captain Waiter.

KITCHEN SUPERVISORS / ASSISTANT KITCHEN SUPERVISORS

- ☑ Male/Female, at least 25 years old;
- ☑ Preferably graduates of BS Food and Nutrition, HRM or other related courses;
- ☑ Have at least 2 years working experience as Kitchen Supervisor or Asst. Kitchen Supervisor
- ☑ Have knowledge in menu planning, food costing and inventory management.

BANQUET AND SALES COORDINATORS

- ☑ Male/Female, 23 to 26 years old;
- ☑ College graduates, preferably of BSHTM, Tourism, PR, BSBA, Mass Communication;
- ☑ Must have a pleasant personality and above average English communication skills.

ACCOUNTING CLERKS

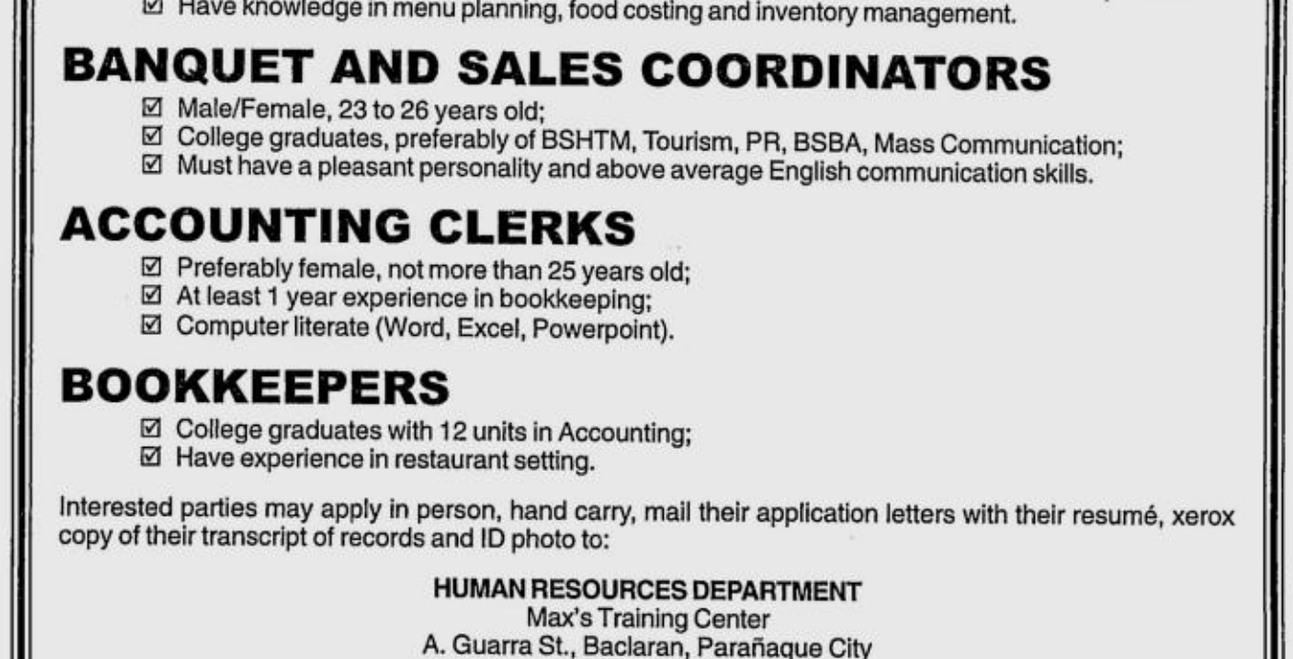
- ☑ Preferably female, not more than 25 years old;
- ☑ At least 1 year experience in bookkeeping;
- ☑ Computer literate (Word, Excel, Powerpoint).

BOOKKEEPERS

- ☑ College graduates with 12 units in Accounting;
- ☑ Have experience in restaurant setting.

Interested parties may apply in person, hand carry, mail their application letters with their resumé, xerox copy of their transcript of records and ID photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Max's Training Center
A. Guarra St., Baclaran, Parañaque City
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
(Subject: MAX'S)



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

CLASSIFIED ADS DIVISION MANAGER

• Graduate of any Marketing Course • 5 years marketing experience • 3 years management experience • Knowledge in product, price, distribution and promotion strategies • Knowledge in management planning and budgeting skills •

Mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé and 1x1 ID photo to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
E-mail: **recruitment@inquirer.com.ph**

MANAGERIAL

The **Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)** is seeking to fill the position of

ACIAR ASSISTANT MANAGER (PHILIPPINES)

The Duties and Responsibilities of the position are summarized below. The commencing salary is Php23,112 per month. The position is available on a 12-month renewable contract basis with a probationary period of 3 months. Hiree will be assigned in Manila.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASSISTANT MANAGER

General:

ACIAR is an Australian Government Authority that operates within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Its overseas posts are responsible for liaison, coordination and administrative activities required for the effective management of ACIAR's collaborative research program in their respective overseas partner countries.

The ACIAR Assistant Manager is expected to develop the position in a way that reflects ACIAR's flexible style and separate identity as a Statutory Authority within the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio. The Assistant Manager position within each ACIAR overseas post needs to work with minimal local supervision and have the ability to order priorities independently in their day-to-day management of the office environment. They are responsible to the ACIAR Manager for the effective day-to-day administration of the office.

ACIAR offices are located within the Australian Embassy and the Manager and staff conform generally with local administrative procedures in the post. In their role as representatives of ACIAR, Managers and staff are subject to the authority of the Head of Mission who should be kept informed of major policy matters and significant developments relevant to ACIAR activities in the partner country.

The Assistant Manager - Overseas is expected to be able to plan, organise and undertake work associated with ACIAR's program, with limited direction and should be able to provide: scientific, technical and policy support services; formal government contacts; and administrative and management support services.

Details about this position can be obtained by contacting Ms. Cecilia Honrado through email at cecilia.honrado@dfat.gov.au.

Criteria for Appointment:

In order to achieve these responsibilities the Assistant Manager - Overseas needs to have, or have the ability to obtain, the following qualifications and experience:

- ☑ High level of fluency in written and spoken English;
- ☑ Representational, communication and interpersonal skills of a high order;
- ☑ Ability to assist the ACIAR Manager in a wide range of administrative tasks requiring a high level of organisation skill and the capacity to work with limited supervision;
- ☑ Good keyboard and work processing skills and experience with computer-based management information systems;
- ☑ Demonstrated ability to use initiative, organise priorities and work within tight deadlines;
- ☑ Knowledge of government, university and agricultural research and institutional infrastructure;
- ☑ Relevant qualifications.

Applicants should include in their application: a resumé; statement addressing each of the Criteria for Appointment; and names and contact details of at least two work referees.

Applications should be lodged on or before close of business Friday, 28 September 2001 and addressed to:

MS. CECILIA O. HONRADO
P.O. Box MK-71
c/o Classified Ads Department
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Atrium of Makati
Makati Avenue, Makati City

Philippine Business for Social Progress

Through the years, our job has meant more than just its pay. If you believe that you can make a difference in other people's lives, we invite you to fill in the following positions:

We are among the country's leading corporate-led social development foundations. Since 1970, we have been committed to making a strategic contribution to improve the quality of life of the underprivileged Filipino by promoting business sector commitment to social development and harnessing resources for innovative programs that lead to self-reliance and sustainable development.

SENIOR HRD OFFICER

The Task
Reporting to the HRD Manager, the position will provide technical assistance and supervisory functions in the development, implementation and evaluation of pro-active HRD programs specifically on Recruitment, Compensation and Benefits Administration, Performance Management, Employee Relations and Job Design and Evaluation functions of the unit.

The Requirements
Holds a degree in Psychology, Behavioral Sciences or related fields, preferably with Post-graduate units. Has 3 to 5 years related work experience in human resource management and development. Possesses excellent skills in JEWSA, communication, relationship building and performance management.

STAFF AUDITOR

The Task
Assists the Internal Auditor in the discharge of the unit's function in ensuring the adequacy of the Foundation's internal controls, policies, systems and procedures.

The Requirements
Holds a degree in Accountancy, Business Administration or any related field. Must be a Certified Public Accountant or a Certified Internal Auditor. At least 2 years experience in public or external auditing firm/private practice, or 1 to 2 years experience in accounting or internal auditing, preferably in a social development setting.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

The Task
Assists and facilitates the affairs of the Executive Director and manages the internal and external relationships of the Executive Office.

The Requirements
Holds a Bachelor's degree, preferably with Master's degree in Development Studies, Management Engineering or related fields. Has at least 2-3 years supervisory experience in a development organization. Highly organized and with excellent coordination skills; excellent verbal and written communication skills; strong relationship building skills; openness to others' point of view; team player, tactful, exhibits professionalism and highly proficient in the use of computer softwares.

Kindly forward your resume, transcript of records and photo to:

THE HRD MANAGER
3/F PSDC Bldg., Magallanes cor. Real sts. Intramuros, Manila
Contact Numbers: 527-7741 to 51 Fax: 527-3743
Email: hrd@pbsp.org.ph

UBX

***U-BIX CORPORATION**, a leading office systems provider and a top 300 Corporation with over P1 Billion in annual revenues, announces its openings for —*

JR. PROGRAMMER
(Sucat Based)

- Male, not over than 26 years old
- Graduate of BS Computer Science or Computer Engineering
- With at least 1 year working experience in programming & systems design
- Must be proficient in Visual Basic, Xbase and other PC applications
- Preferably with knowledge in networking and internet.

COMPANY NURSE
(Code : CN)

- Licensed Female Nurse, not over 25 years old
- Single, at least 5'3" tall
- Must have a pleasing personality and good communication skills
- With at least 1 year working experience as company nurse in a company with around 500 employees
- Willing to shuttle between Makati & Sucat offices and to help in other departments when necessary

COLLECTOR
(Code :PDI-C&C)

- Male, between 23-26 years old
- Resident of Metro Manila
- Graduate of any business or accounting course
- Hardworking and honest
- Relevant working experience in credit and collection is preferred

Qualified applicants are requested to mail their resumes and transcript of records to:
(CODE:_____)
Recruitment and Training Group
1331 Angono St., J.P. Rizal Makati City

A WELL ESTABLISHED FIRST CLASS RETAIL COMPANY IS IN NEED OF TOP CALIBER INDIVIDUALS TO APPLY AS

PERSONNEL MANAGER

- ☑ Female, between 30 to 40 years old
- ☑ Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science/Studies or Human Resource Management; a Masteral degree is an advantage
- ☑ Minimum of three (3) years experience in a similar capacity, handling ALL FACETS OF HR work
- ☑ With very strong leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills
- ☑ With excellent oral and written communication skills
- ☑ Possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- ☑ Highly motivated and results-oriented
- ☑ Computer literate

ADVERTISING MANAGER Code: R-A&P

- ☑ At least 26 years old
- ☑ Graduate of Communication Arts, Advertising or Public Relations
- ☑ With at least (2) two-year work experience in advertising in a managerial capacity
- ☑ Must have extensive dealing with the press
- ☑ Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- ☑ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- ☑ Must be computer literate

Please send your application documents with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records, and a recent 2x2 photo to:

P.O. BOX 100
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Floor, Building B, Megamall
Mandaluyong City
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
(Subject: MMBox100)

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)

Water and Sanitation Program
An international partnership to help the poor gain sustained access to improved water supply and sanitation services

Philippines Water Supply and Sanitation Performance Enhancement Project (WPEP)

The World Bank Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) is assisting the Government of Philippines (GOP) to reform its policies for water supply and sanitation (WSS) through WPEP, with grant funding from Australia through AusAID. WPEP activities are over sighted by a multi-agency GOP Technical Working Group, and include applied field research, knowledge management and communication, and capacity-building for decision-makers, participating agencies and practitioners.

To coordinate WPEP project activities we are looking for a well-qualified candidate for

Research Assistant

Located in the WPEP project office in DILG, this position provides key support to the Team Leader and Technical Working Group in planning, coordinating, monitoring and reporting activities and disseminating results, including a direct professional role in gathering and analyzing information and producing the required outputs.

Principal Tasks:

- Contribute professional inputs to the activities of the WPEP PMO in the areas of research; technical advice; policy development; analysis and documentation of findings of case studies; field trials; dissemination of lessons learned; seminars and workshop proceedings; local capacity building; the development of the WPEP information system and data base;
- Assist in the implementation of work plans for WPEP activities by providing the necessary organization and coordination of inputs to ensure that the outputs defined in the work plan are produced in an efficient and timely manner. As required, monitor the outputs of other contributors to WPEP products;
- In consultation with the Team Leader, assist in the preparation of terms of reference for project personnel, contracts for short-term consultants and NGOs, and coordinate the processing of all aspects of technical assistance inputs; and
- Oversee the day-to-day administration of the project office, including the preparation and maintenance of records of financial disbursements, work planning, communications, support personnel management and in liaison with the Team Leader, contribute to the formal reporting to the Project Steering Committee, Technical Working Group and to AusAID. Maintain good liaison with the World Bank Office in Manila.

Selection Criteria:

- A relevant degree (e.g. in economics, engineering, planning, environment, community development, social sciences) and practical work experience in the Philippines relevant to policy reform and or the design and implementation of community-based projects (e.g. with government agencies, ESAs, consultants, NGOs);
- Fluent in English and Tagalog languages with excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- Ability to conduct research and analysis on sector issues and the drafting of the relevant written outputs;
- Demonstrated experience in office administration and management, including in the preparation of work plans and the drafting of services contract documentation;
- Advanced computer skills and full proficiency in the use of relevant software applications and the internet;
- Ability to work effectively with government and other officials at all levels and with representatives of international agencies in a facilitative role and in a team environment;
- Higher than average analytical, organizational and presentation abilities; and
- Willingness to travel frequently to rural areas within the Philippines.

Professional experience in the WSS sector in the Philippines, training and/or work experience in another country, and/or familiarity with GOP, World Bank or AusAID project procedures and requirements would be an advantage.

A fixed-term contract will be offered on World Bank terms and conditions.

Written applications containing Curriculum Vitae, a recent photo and covering letter addressing the selection criteria should be sent to the address below by **21 September 2001:**

The Administrative Officer
Box No. 200 - Ortigas 2001
jm1@inquirer.com.ph (Subject: MEGA-WPEP)

SHORT-TERM CONSULTANTS: WPEP maintains a Consultants database, used to select candidates for short-term assignments. Consultants with special skills in the provision of water supply and sanitation services, especially to the poor, are invited to submit their CVs and contact details.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

REGISTERED NURSES

- ☑ Male or female, 21 to 29 years old;
- ☑ With at least 6 months experience preferably gained in a hospital or HM setting;
- ☑ Must have a pleasing personality and computer literate.

REGISTERED MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST

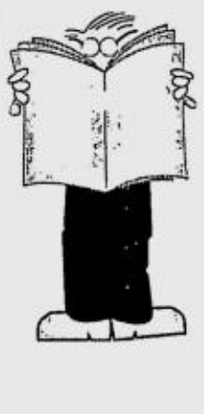
- ☑ Female, at least 21 to 29 years of age;
- ☑ With one year relevant experience as a Medical Technologist;
- ☑ Computer literate and willing to start immediately.

Interested applicants may personally submit their resumé, 2x2 picture, transcript of records to:

Rx MEDICard

Human Resources Department
MEDICard Philippines, Inc.
8/F Sagittarius Building
H.V. Dela Costa Street
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Email: rsalmon@medicardphils.com
(Previous applicants need not apply)

Where you find the best.



JOBMarket ONLINE

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

We are the 100% subsidiary of a top ten corporation listed in the Fortune 500. The company is growing rapidly in the Philippines in the last three years.

TREASURY ASSISTANT

Knowledge and Experience:
- Graduate of business course major in Accounting
- With at least 5 years work experience in the same or similar position gained from a reputable company
- Proficient in credit policies and procedures
- Knowledgeable in treasury and import operations
- Strong computer skills

Competencies:
- Hardworking, flexible and resourceful
- Independent and efficient
- Keen on details
- Self-motivated with a strong commitment and drive to deliver
- Ability and willingness to work beyond office hours

INTERNAL CONTROL COORDINATOR

Knowledge and Experience:
- Graduate of business course major in Accounting
- With extensive experience in AUDIT gained from a reputable company
- Knowledgeable in compliance review
- Proficient in report writing
- Monitoring skills
- Strong computer skills

Competencies:
- Independent and efficient
- Keen on details
- Able to handle multiple tasks concurrently
- Self-motivated with a strong commitment and drive to deliver
- Ability and willingness to work beyond office hours

Please send your comprehensive resumé together with one (1) passport-size colored photograph and contact number/s no later than **September 15, 2001** to:

The Personnel Officer
P.O. Box MK-72
c/o Classified Ads Division
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Atrium of Makati
Makati Avenue, Makati City

MANAGERIAL

A Filipino chain of restaurants with branches in the U.S. is in search of the following DYNAMIC people for its nationwide expansion program:

Franchise Training Manager - responsible for:
- the training of franchisee/owner and complete pioneer staff according to the prescribed standards of the company
- the recruitment and selection of management team
- the continuing education and development of franchisee/owner and management staff based on the needs and trends of the industry

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Sciences, Organizational Development or any related course;
- With working knowledge on all aspects of training (TNA, design, implementation, evaluation);
- With background in management team recruitment and selection;
- preferably with experience from a restaurant setting;
- willing to do provincial assignments

Franchise Development Officer - responsible for:
- building market awareness on the franchise business concept of the company
- the conduct of site validation to ensure viability of the location
- the conduct of market validation to ensure viability of the market to accommodate the business concept
- screening of prospective franchise applicants

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Marketing, Business Administration or any related course;
- With working knowledge in conducting market research and site validation
- with background in conducting business presentation
- with background in screening and evaluating prospective franchisee based on prescribed profile
- willing to do provincial assignments

Field Operations Consultant - responsible for:
- the achievement of sales targets and profitability of franchise outlets
- the monitoring of franchise branches on conformance to standard systems and procedures
- coordinating with franchise outlets on issues pertaining to the daily business operations
- the achievement of FSC (food, service and cleanliness) targets of franchise outlets

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management, Tourism, Business Administration or other related course;
- with background in restaurant operations as branch/store manager
- with working experience in managing multi branches/stores
- willing to do provincial assignments
- preferably with driver's license

Franchise Development Assistant - responsible for:
- handling and responding to franchise inquiry
- screening and managing record file of franchise applicant
- conducting site and market validation of potential franchise location
- coordinating and handling special events requisite to building market awareness on the franchising business opportunity
- maintaining a regular communications medium to all franchisees

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Communication Arts, Marketing or other related course;
- good in written and verbal communication
- computer literate with working knowledge on Adobe, Pagemaker, Corel Draw

Executive Assistant - responsible for:
- handling the schedules and appointments of the Chief Operating Officer
- preparing business correspondences for the Chief Operating Officer
- handling general office administration
- handling confidential files and documents

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Office Administration, Communication Arts or other related course
- with at least 2 years working experience in assisting an executive officer
- good in written and verbal communications
- computer literate

Marketing Services Officer - responsible for:
- training of Branch LSM Officers on all aspects of Local Store Marketing
- conducting market research
- reviewing and monitoring the implementation of store marketing programs (local and systemwide)

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Marketing, Communication Arts or any related course
- at least 24 years old, not more than 29 years old
- with at least 2 years solid experience in handling local store marketing programs in the restaurant or retail industry
- results-oriented
- computer literate
- willing to do provincial assignments

Human Resources Specialist - responsible for:
- recruitment and screening of management team applicants
- conducting reference/background verification of applicants
- evaluating/recommending management team applicants for possible employment
- assisting in other aspects of recruitment and training of franchise personnel

Qualifications:
- graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Sciences or other related courses
- with working experience in recruitment and selection
- preferably with experience in conducting pre-employment testing
- with working knowledge in other aspects of training
- computer literate

Technical Assistant - responsible for:
- evaluating suppliers for raw materials
- documenting specifications for raw materials
- documenting procedures and processes
- conducting field monitoring on the implementation of specified procedures on new products

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Food Technology or Chemistry
- With working experience in qualifying suppliers for raw materials
- Good in written and verbal communications
- Must have at least 3 years experience in food manufacturing
- Computer literate

Interested parties may send their application letter with their resumé, photocopy of transcript of records, and I.D. photo to:

The Human Resources Manager
Box No. KA-008-01 ME
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Trinity Building,
#636 T.M. Kalaw Street,
Ermita, Manila
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
(Subject : KAL-ME)

TeleMessage

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
- Graduate of 4-year college course
- Advertising, Promotions or Media background, an advantage
- Strong communication, presentation and negotiation skills

CALL ATTENDANTS
- College graduate
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Proficient in English and Pilipino

TELEMARKETING REPRESENTATIVES
- College graduate
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Proficient in English and Pilipino
- Confident and aggressive personality, good speaking skills
- Sales experience, especially over the telephone, an advantage

SEND RESUMÉS via

FAX 632-8785221
EMAIL tmp867@i-manila.com.ph
inquiry@telemessage.ph
MAIL

Administrative Manager
TeleMessage Philippines, Inc.
19/F Trafalgar Plaza
105 H.V. Dela Costa Street
Salcedo Village
Makati City 1200

mod.net

MOD.NET is the first Enterprise and Internet Data Center (EIDC) player in the country. It is sister company of Mosaic Communications (Moscom), the pioneer, and largest ISP in the country.

Mod.Net is a 24x7 operation. A company that never sleeps. It is a company committed to national development, through the promotion of information technology and communications solutions. It has a profound vision of partnership, custodianship, and trust; an e-nabler of enterprise.

We are looking for men and women who seek to align their personal career success with Philippine progress.

IF YOU ARE:

Service Oriented. You go the extra mile for people, and derive your fulfillment from contributing to the success of others.
An ITC User: You experience, firsthand, the great value of IT and communications to productivity.
Patient, Persevering, Persistent. You are not afraid of hardwork, and recognize it as an ingredient to accomplishment.
Optimistic and Nationalistic. You believe that NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE.
Creative Problem-Solver. You sell solutions, and lead through ideas. You have a knack for value, and are intelligent with money.
Perpetually Young! You shun complacency, physical & mental laziness. You have the ability to reinvent yourself!

JOIN US!

We are building teams in:

DATA CENTER OPERATIONS

Educational background in CS, CoE or EE from a university of repute; Proficiency in UNIX, C, C++ and TCP/IP networking; Experience in Linux/Unix/MS and related services (Apache, bind, IIS etc.) and WEB-BASED applications; Employment in a high-security, mission critical enterprise environment. A team player. An individual with initiative and presence of mind. Trustworthy and loyal.

24x7 SECURITY AND ENGINEERING

Educational background in Criminology or equivalent/Engineering (Mechanical or Electrical) fields; Experience in the management or design of centralized building management systems of large enterprise; Proven track record as a team member of security or engineering service providers. Unassailable honesty, integrity and loyalty.

CORPORATE SOLUTIONS

Educational background in IT/Business/Engineering (non-civil) fields; Experience in the Internet and ITC industries; Excellent written and verbal communication skills; Excellent presentation skills; Proven ability in Client Relationship Management.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Certified Public Accountant from a reputable school; Experience in financial accounting or cost accounting. Strong analytical skills. Excellent written, verbal and presentation skills. Open to multi-tasking in the administrative facet of corporate services.

HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST

Experience in organizational design and performance evaluation. A one-person-team, the individual must have strong coordination skills, initiative, and contacts in the HR industry. Experience in compensation and benefits design is an advantage.

WE HAVE POSTED THE JOB APPLICATION FORMAT ON THE WEB.
Please visit: www.modeidc.net/recruit/apply.html

Once completed, please email your application to: loclida@modeidc.net
Or, mail them to: 10th Flr. The Peak, #107 L.P. Leviste St. Salcedo Village 1227, Makati City
Attention: Ms. Lynda Oclida

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for a:

CIRCULATION FIELDMAN

- Graduate of any business course
- Knowledge of the ins and out of Metro Manila
- Excellent communication skills

Mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé and one 2x2 ID photo to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
or e-mail: **recruitment@inquirer.com.ph**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- At least 2 years related experience
- Knowledge of basic computer/office software operation

Mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé and 1x1 ID photo to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
E-mail: **recruitment@inquirer.com.ph**

MANAGERIAL/TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

FPDSavills
INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

The leading property management company in the Philippines invites applicants for :

BUILDING MANAGERS
- Graduates of ME/EE or with certificate of attendance in property or building management course from a reputable organization
- With 3 years related work experience
- Not more than 40 years old

BUILDING ENGINEERS
- Graduates of ME/EE; Licensed
- With 3-5 years experience in operation & maintenance of high rise buildings

MULTI-SKILLED TECHNICIANS
(mechanical/electrical/electronic/ aircon/plumbers/carpenters)
- High School or Vocational Course Graduates
- With 2-3 years extensive work experience

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
- Graduate of Marketing or Business Course
- Background in Engineering an advantage
- Not more than 28 years old; preferably single with pleasing personality
- With 2 years relevant work experience
- Very good written & verbal communication skills
- Proficient in Computer application

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS
- College graduates
- With 1 year related work experience
- Female; Not more than 26 years old;
- Compute literate

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS
- Graduates of BS Accountancy or its equivalent
- Knowledgeable in general accounting principles
- With 3 years related work experience
- Proficient in Computer applications

RECEPTIONISTS
- Graduates of Mass Communication or Hotel & Restaurant Management
- With 1 year work experience in customer care
- Very pleasing personality,fluent in English
- Not more than 26 years old, at least 5'4" in height.

Due to urgency of need, interested applicants may personally submit, fax, or e-mail their comprehensive resume, transcript of records, and recent 2x2 photo not later than 17 September 2001 to :

The Human Resources Department
FPDSAVILLS PHILIPPINES, INC.
Bldg. B, Bonifacio Centre, Bonifacio Global City
Taguig, Metro Manila
Fax No. 889-1191 ✦ Email address :lgo@fpdsavills.com.ph

BODY & SOUL
Nature's Gift from Australia
IS IN NEED OF

A) OFFICE MANAGER
- Minimum 3 years work experience in a similar position
- Computer literate
- Self-motivating / Female
- Not more than 40 years old

B) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- Female / Computer literate
- Previous experience preferred

C) RETAIL SALES SUPERVISORS
- Previous experience in similar field preferred
- Self-motivating
- Excellent communication skills
- Computer literate
- With strong leadership and initiative / Female

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY AND COMPENSATION PACKAGE AWAITS SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS.

Please apply in person with your detailed resumé and credential on September 10-12 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at:

#78 15th Avenue, Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City
E-mail: bodynsoul@skylnet.net

Barangay Fire & Rescue Brigade
Barangay Wack-Wack Greenhills East

FIRE TRUCK DRIVERS
and
FIRE FIGHTERS / RESCUERS

You want to help save lives and protect property? Here's your chance. If you possess the following qualifications and you think you have what it takes to become a member of this Brigade, join us.

Qualifications:
1. Male
2. 21-30 years old
3. Preferably resident of Mandaluyong City
4. Graduate of any 4-year degree course
5. At least 5'4" in height
6. Physically fit and must pass the following examinations:
   a. Medical
   b. Physical: 4 km run with 1/3 body weight load within 45 mins, 50 push-ups, 6 pull-ups, 50 sit-ups, and 1.8m standing long jump
   c. Neuro-Psychiatric test
7. Must have a professional driver's license. (Not mandatory for Fire Fighters/Rescuers)
8. No derogatory record.
9. Must have good moral character with letters of endorsement from the following:
   a. One of your college professors.
   b. Prominent member of your community.
   c. Parish Priest / Minister.
10. Do not smoke and not a heavy drinker.

Secure an application form at:

Barangay Wack-Wack Greenhills East
Rm. 9, 2/F Anglo Building, 715-A Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

Contact Info:
Contact Persons: **Bhart Unlayao or Chris Castacio**
Tel: 718-19-25, 723-31-65 Cellphone: 0917-2091425, 0919-8353146
Email: **everest@mosart.org, raven@mosart.org**

The **COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS** is looking for dynamic young professionals to revitalize its services:

(6) SENIOR EMIGRANT SERVICES OFFICER II (SG 18)
Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Economics, Psychology, Social Science or any related field; very good oral and written communication skills; 2 years relevant experience in research and/or project management; computer literate; and civil service professional.

(4) EMIGRANT SERVICES OFFICER II (SG 15)
Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Economics, Psychology or any related field; very good oral and written communication skills; experience in research and/or project management preferred; computer literate; and with civil service professional eligibility.

(1) EMIGRANT SERVICES OFFICER I (SG 11)
Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Economics, Psychology or any related field; very good oral and written communication skills; computer literate; and with civil service professional eligibility.

(2) INFORMATION SYSTEMS ANALYST II (SG 16)
Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Computer Management, Computer Engineering or any related field; 2 years experience in systems analysis and design and computer programming; knowledge in Visual Basic and SQL is required; very good oral and written communication skills; and with civil service professional eligibility.

(1) COMPUTER PROGRAMMER II (SG 15)
Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Computer Management or any related field; with experience and training in computer programming, computer systems analysis and design; knowledge in computer hardware preferred; civil service professional.

(1) PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER I (SG 11)
Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, Social Science or any related field; relevant experience in HRD employee relations, training and career counseling; very good oral and written communication skills; computer literate; and with civil service professional eligibility.

(1) DRIVER
At least with 3 years experience; with professional driver's license.

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé with 2 x 2 ID picture, transcript of records and a photocopy of civil service eligibility to:

COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS
Citigold Center, 1345 Quirino Ave.
cor. South Superhighway, Manila
Or call 561-8317 or 561-8321 (Look for Betty)
e-mail address: cfobdc@info.com.ph

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

To provide technology application and administrative support to an international nonprofit organization's Manila office. Primary duties will include:

- Network administration
- Local and global software application systems implementation
- Hardware acquisition, installation and maintenance
- End-User training and support
- Continuing education and development

The Administrator will be responsible for supporting the local IT environment, including Microsoft NT, Windows 2000, Back Office (Exchange, Outlook, Office 2000), and internal IT initiatives.

Required qualifications:

✓ University degree, preferably in Computer Engineering or Computer Science, or
✓ Minimum equivalent of 5 years experience in a position with similar responsibilities, preferably in organizations or companies with international affiliations
✓ Excellent knowledge of the IT industry development, hardware, software and communications technologies (WAN, LAN, wireless technologies, internet, and the Microsoft Exchange)
✓ Excellent verbal and written skills in English
✓ Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
✓ Excellent analytical and planning skills
✓ Initiative and results-oriented abilities to work independently
✓ Philippine citizenship

This will be an opportunity to join a prestigious nonprofit international organization, with presence in fifteen countries, that offers an excellent organizational climate and competitive salaries and benefits.

Application in writing, together with a current resumé detailing personal qualifications and employment history, and 2 letters of recommendation should be directed by **24 September 2001** to:

The Representative
P.O. 1936
Makati Central Post Office
1259 Makati City

A LEADING SCHOOL

IN THE SOUTH (LAS PIÑAS CITY)
is in need of the following school personnel:

SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER
ADMIN. STAFF/NURSE to handle admin. work (must be computer literate and with good communication skills)
ACCOUNTING TEACHER
HS ENGLISH TEACHER
SPECIAL FILIPINO SUBJECT TEACHER
LANGUAGES DEPT. HEAD
REGISTRATION STAFF (must be computer literate)

The school offers a highly attractive compensation and benefits package. We guarantee your continued professional and personal growth.

Bring or send biodata, transcript of records, diploma and 1 passport-size picture to ***Human Resource Office, 1281 Tropical Avenue corner Luxembourg St., BF International, Las Piñas City, Metro Manila (Tel. No. 820-8702/03 or 825-6374)***
Testing and interview will be from **Sept. 10-13, 2001**

We are in need of

SALES OFFICER
RESELLER CHANNEL OFFICER

Qualifications:

Graduated from a 4-year college course,
preferably business related and from a reputable university,
excellent communications skills; fluent in English and Filipino;
customer-oriented, goal-oriented, with the ability to surpass performance goals set;
must have above average financial and negotiation skills;
previous sales experience is an advantage

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to send their application letter, picture and comprehensive resumés to:

CyberStateU.com Philippines, Inc.
3rd Flr. Blue Bldg., 188 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue,
Bagumbayan, Quezon City
or email us at ***verdeflor.m@cyberstateu.com.ph***

GM

General Motors Automobiles Philippines, Inc.

We are currently seeking for a top notch

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

with the following qualifications:

- At least 5 years experience as secretary to a top executive
- Possess a university degree
- Computer literate (Windows applications)
- Proficient in oral and written English
- Ability to manage job tasks proactively without supervision
- Can relate well with all levels in and outside the organization
- With pleasing personality
- Responsible and mature

The Executive Secretary will also be responsible for Human Resource administration.

Remuneration package is attractive for the right candidate.

If you meet these qualifications, send your letter of application, comprehensive resumé and passport-size photo (indicate current salary) to:

Finance Director
33/F Citibank Tower Condo
8741 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village
1226 Makati City, Philippines

A dynamic architectural firm based in Makati is currently in need of the following:

ARCHITECT/ESTIMATOR
- With BS Architecture degree from a reputable school
- Able to work on AutoCAD 14 & 2000
- Able to do quantity surveys, cost estimates and specifications writing
- Experience shall be relevant to architectural construction

SECRETARY
- With College diploma, any course
- Able to communicate fluently in written and spoken English
- Able to operate a computer and proficient in Microsoft applications software
- Experience shall be relevant to secretarial and clerical work

Interested parties may send their resumé with 2"x2" picture to:

THE HR MANAGER
P.O. Box 4830
Makati Central Post Office, Makati City

A Marketing Research Company has Job-openings for:

INTERVIEWERS (Per Project Basis)

Single, Male/Female, 20-27 years old, graduate or college level at a reputable College/University. Excellent oral and written communication skills. Must speak English fluently. With pleasing, outgoing personality.

DATA PROCESSING PERSONNEL

Single, Male/Female, Statistics or 4-year Computer Science course from a reputable college / university. Programming skills and knowledge of Statistical Software is a plus.

Apply in person with resumé and current photo:

Suite 603 Richmonde Plaza 21 San Miguel Avenue cor. Lourdes Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig Cit
Look for Khor

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

globalstride
formerly Webservasia

We are one of the country's premier companies engaged in internet-based Customer Relationship Management. We invite experienced and highly motivated individuals to join our organization for the following positions:

IT Manager - Application Development (Code: ITMAD-IT)

The Information Technology Manager for Application Development will be responsible for directing, managing, assessing and organizing company's IT needs based on user requirements such as software development and system management. The candidate must have at least three (3) years progressive experience in project management acquired in software development environment, two years of which must be in a supervisory/managerial capacity. Must have experience in Microsoft platforms such as SQL Server, Microsoft 2000, Visual Basic. Must have the ability to mentor and motivate technical staff and deliver projects as required.

LAN Tech Engineer (Code: LTE-IT)

The LAN Engineer will be responsible for the installation, monitoring and troubleshooting of computer peripherals and workstations. The candidate must have a strong foundation in providing technical support (hardware and software); proficient in LAN/WAN, client server, and Windows 2000 environment. The candidate must be a university degree holder in BS Computer Science/Engineering, and must be a Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP). Persons must be between twenty and thirty years of age.

Telecoms Technician (Code: TelTech-IT)

The Telecommunications Technician will be responsible for the installation, maintenance and troubleshooting of phone lines; creating Computer Telephony Integration using Lucent Definity. The candidate must have at least three (3) years progressive experience in telephony, cabling and configuring phone system. A university/college degree holder in BS Electronics and Communications Engineering; preferably licensed. Persons must be twenty-five to thirty years of age.

Programmer (Code: Prog-IT)

The Programmer will be responsible for developing, designing, and implementation of database and test programs. The ideal candidate must have at least one (1) year programming experience using Visual Basic, SQL and MS Access. He/She must be a university/college degree holder in BS Computer Science; persons between twenty to twenty-seven years of age are preferred.

General Accountant (Code: GA-Fin)

The General Accountant will be responsible for preparing and maintaining of the company's financial statements, prepares reportorial requirements to government agencies, and maintain files of disbursements and advances. The candidate must be a Certified Public Accountant, with at least two (2) years relevant work experience. Must be proficient in using spreadsheet; knowledge in MYOB software an advantage. Persons must be between twenty-two to twenty-seven years of age.

Production Analyst (Code: PA-CS)

The Production Analyst will be responsible in integrating and analysis of data generated using appropriate statistical tools and methodologies. Part of the responsibility is to determine the manpower requirement of a particular program and analysis of information between actual versus target output. The candidate must be a university/college degree holder in BS Statistics/Mathematics; must possess above average skills in preparing graphical presentation using Excel or Powerpoint. Persons between twenty-five to twenty-nine years of age are preferred.

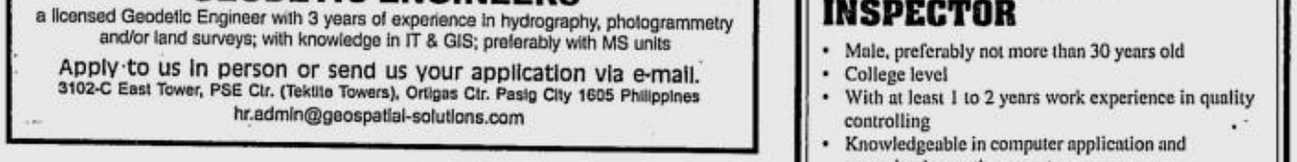
Customer Care Specialists (Code: CCS-Opns)

The Customer Care Specialists will be at the forefront of our organization. They will be the focal point for all customer requests, and will be responsible for providing front line support and assistance to our clients. Our Customer Care Specialists are expected to analyze, diagnose and solve problems, with consistently high customer satisfaction rating. They should be courteous, customer-focused, and must be team spirited. The ideal candidates for the position are persons who are internet savvy college graduates; excellent communications skills; are between twenty and twenty-seven years of age, with excellent interpersonal skills; and are willing to work shifts. Previous experience in the customer relations management industry and can speak any foreign language such as Fookien, Mandarin, Cantonese and Spanish is a plus.

Interested parties are requested to submit their comprehensive resume indicating the position code to:

GLOBALSTRIDE
Attn: Human Resources Department
29/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Bagumbayan, Quezon City
Email: jobs@webservasia.com
Fax No: 911-8854

"Real people for your customers all the time"



Developers and Support Staff Wanted

Account Managers (AM)

AMs handle multiple accounts and work with staff and client personnel towards the efficient and timely completion of projects. Previous experience in handling IT-oriented projects are an advantage.

CANDIDATES MUST BE HIGHLY PROFICIENT IN:
- written and spoken ENGLISH
- standard word processing and spreadsheet applications.
- using Internet applications such as web browsers, email programs.
- the use of the world-wide-web.

Programmers

Programmers will build databases and develop applications using C or VisualBasic and related languages. Candidates should be comfortable working in a Windows (COM and COM+) environment. Experience in Unix will be considered an advantage.

CANDIDATES MUST BE HIGHLY PROFICIENT IN:
- using C or VisualBasic as development platforms

HTML Encoders

Encoders will build web documents using Hypertext Markup Language (HTML). They will manipulate textual and graphical content into HTML-based documents. Experience and proficiency in the use of raster and vector graphics applications are an advantage. Experience and proficiency in the use of JavaScript and ASP/PHP are also considered an advantage.

CANDIDATES MUST BE HIGHLY PROFICIENT IN:
- using HTML to build sites
- typing and encoding skills (at least 50 words per minute).
- using Internet applications such as web browsers, email programs.

Copywriters

Copywriters will edit existing materials from clients, or create original content for clients, for use in the development of interactive media packages. Copywriters are also responsible for their own research in order to produce this content. Copywriters will also assist in other aspects of development including organizing and classifying information and encoding of information. Experience and profiency in the use of HTML are an advantage.

CANDIDATES MUST BE HIGHLY PROFICIENT IN:
- written and spoken ENGLISH
- general research and documentation skills
- standard word processing software
- using Internet applications such as web browsers, email programs.

Graphic Designer/HTML Encoder (GD/Encoder)

This combined position will require candidates to design and implement web sites and other web-oriented content. GD/Encoders will create the graphical components of websites, integrate these with provided textual content, towards the creation of functional web-ready (HTML) documents. GD/Encoders may also be required to design usable interfaces for websites. Experience and proficiency in the use of JavaScript and ASP/PHP are also considered an advantage.

CANDIDATES MUST BE HIGHLY PROFICIENT IN:
- the use of raster graphics applications
- the use of vector graphics applications
- using HTML to build sites
- typing and encoding skills
- using Internet applications such as web browsers, email programs.

Applicants should send in their application via email to jobs@slingshot.ph. Email should include an attached digital resume complete with biographical data and previous related experience. Email should also include a brief 1 page essay on the kind of work the applicant is looking for and expecting, also attached as a digital file. Emails should be sent no later than September 15, 2001. Non-digital files may also be sent to the address below.

SLINGSHOT INTERACTIVE
Unit 610 Cityland Shaw Tower Shaw Blvd cor St Francis st Mandaluyong City 1552
Tel. No. 6356525 | 6356550 Fax. No. 6356414
www.slingshot.ph

GeoSpatial Solutions
www.geospatial-solutions.com

LEADERS IN GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY

GeoSpatial Solutions is an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) company that specializes in the development of Geographic Information Systems.

We are looking for the following ICT Professionals to be part of our team:

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATORS
LAN topology and software familiarity, LAN bridges and gateways, servers and other IT peripherals; knowledgeable in Windows NT, RDBMS set-up and networking; preferably an ECE, Comp. Sci. or Eng. graduate

ACCOUNTING CLERKS
with 2 years of applied work experience as an Accounting Clerk / Assistant; preferably a graduate of Accounting

HR MANAGERS
with 2 years of relevant experience in all the facets of HR Management; a graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Sciences, or Business Management; preferably with a Masters Degree or units in Psychology, Industrial Relations, or Management

GEODETIC ENGINEERS
a licensed Geodetic Engineer with 3 years of experience in hydrography, photogrammetry and/or land surveys; with knowledge in IT & GIS; preferably with MS units

Apply to us in person or send us your application via e-mail.
3102-C East Tower, PSE Ctr. (Tektite Towers), Ortigas Ctr. Pasig City 1605 Philippines
hr.admin@geospatial-solutions.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

PROJECT MANAGER
- Male, Registered Civil / Structural Engineer
- With at least 5 years work experience in the supervision of construction projects
- At least 35 to 40 years old
- Must be assertive, decisive, cost conscious and could maintain good working relationship with clients and representatives
- Must exhibit leadership and management skills

SITE ENGINEER
- Male not over 30 years old
- Civil / Structural Engineering or Architecture graduate preferably licensed
- With at least 1 to 2 years work experience
- Computer literate
- Good communication skills, oral and written

QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTOR
- Male, preferably not more than 30 years old
- College level
- With at least 1 to 2 years work experience in quality controlling
- Knowledgeable in computer application and preparing inspection reports
- Hardworking honest, resourceful and self initiative

SAFETY OFFICER
- Male, preferably not more than 30 years old
- Nursing Graduate, preferably registered
- With at least 1 or 2 years work experience in construction
- Computer literate
- Good communication skills, oral and written

PLEASE SEND RESUMÉ WITH 2x2 ID PICTURE TO THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT AT P.O. BOX 1443 MCPO, MAKATI CITY

Specialty Coffee Retailing Company
Caffe Appassionato
"Where a passion is always brewing"

An American Café and Restaurant Franchise is in need of service-oriented individuals to be assigned to our Festival Mall outlet:

CASHIER/SERVER
- Female, not over 30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Preferably with 5 years experience as cashier in a restaurant environment
- Hardwoking, mature and flexible
- Should reside in the South area

BARISTA/SERVER
- Male, not over 30 years old
- College level
- With 3 years experience as barista (with specialization in coffee preparation)
- Hardworking and can work with minimum supervision
- Should reside in the South area

Qualified applicants are requested to apply personally or send their resume with photo and pertinent credentials to:

Caffe Appassionato
c/o Recruitment and Training Group
1331 Angono St., J.P. Rizal Makati City
or e-mail us at ubxhrd@i-next.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

We invite you to apply for

SUBSIDIARY CLERK

- College graduate major in Accounting
- Knowledge of basic accounting procedures
- Knowledge of basic computer operations

Mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé and one 1x1 ID photo to:

HR Management Services Head
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

We belong to a group engaged in the manufacturing and distribution of branded and generic pharmaceutical products. We are in need of the following positions:

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

- ☒ A Certified Public Accountant
- ☒ With supervisory experience for at least one (1) year

HR OFFICER/ASSISTANT

- ☒ Preferably with one (1) year experience in HRD works
- ☒ Computer literate; familiar with SSS/Payroll work
- ☒ Must be able to perform other non-HR functions

Apply in person or send your Resumé with picture and Transcript of Records to:

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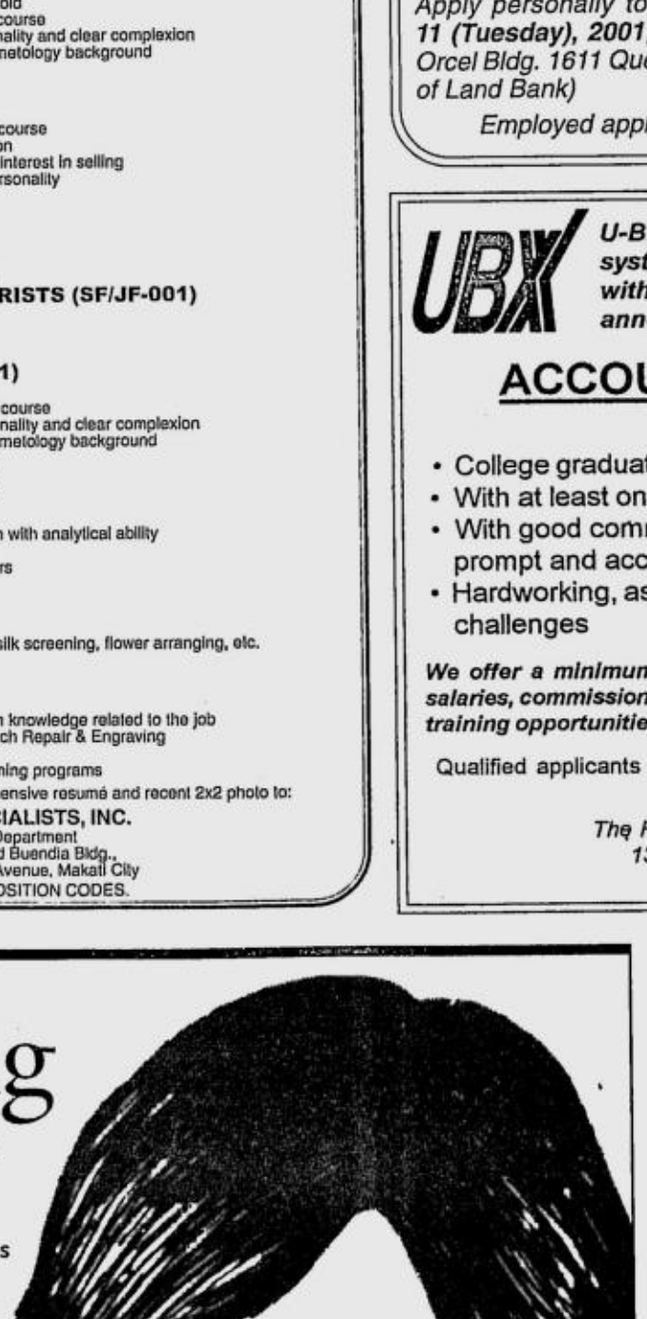

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SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

September 9, 2001
Volume 14, No. 27

Joey "Pepe" Smith

Lola's Boy

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The Cover Image Joey "Pepe" Smith may be a hardcore rocker, but there's nothing but sweetness between him and Lola Smith
Photograph by Eddie Boy Escudero

CLICHÉD TO DEATH

Rene Saguisag should be arrested for illegal possession of clichés (SIM, 29 July 2001). "The road less travelled," "beat of a different drummer," "land on the right side of history," "judged by the Great Scorer," "how I played the game of life," "way to go" and "the despised least of my brethren"? Give me a break, as they say in Hollywood. Saguisag makes Teodoro Benigno read like Ernest Hemingway. Arnold & Porter should have sent him to Strunk & White. Or Masters & Johnson (but that's another story). His lawyering gives me pause. His writing gives me constipation. Baby, I'm raising my right hand!

STANLEY T. RAMOS
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YUCK!

Yuck! Yuck! Yuck *ang* cover *n'yo* (SIM, 29 July 2001). *Bakit napasama si* Lozano *d'yan? Iyan ang pinaka-nakakasuka n'yong* feature. *Dapat mas pinahalagahan n'yo ang mga* witnesses like Clarissa Ocampo, Yulo, Espiritu, etc..

AGNES T. ADRAL
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LOATHED

Thank you for coming up with a feature on four of the most loathed lawyers of our time. I read with great interest the essay of former Senator Rene A.V. Saguisag, amusingly titled "The Devil I Am" (SIM, 29 July 2001).

Saguisag was a man I really admired, especially in my years in San Beda. I looked up to him, along with Raul Roco, as the epitome of a true Bedan gentleman, a man of principle and impeccable integrity.

It was thus a big puzzle to me why Saguisag apparently sold his soul to the dark side, why he took the cudgels for the unrepentantly corrupt Erap. His serving as counsel for Mayor Antonio Sanchez and Hubert Webb I managed to understand. But his passionate defense of the deposed president was the straw that broke this camel's back: "Why, Renito?" I asked. In the absence of an answer, he incessantly broke my heart. The admiration I had for him turned to resentment.

Saguisag may not know me personally but I felt like he owed me an explanation. Indeed, the nation, especially young Filipinos like me, deserve some word from him, not really for the brilliant lawyer to justify his actions but to give some semblance of sanity to what he has been doing. The essay has accomplished that. I now embrace the idea that even bad guys need good lawyers. I also acknowledge that the issue of innocence or guilt of any criminal suspect must be resolved by the courts, no matter how corrupt and stained the system is, and not by self-proclaimed "civil society" groups who seem to claim a monopoly of sound reason, love of country, and fear of the Almighty.

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by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

How far will couples go to have children with some help from technology? Meet a woman who paid the price and a doctor who helps make people's pregnant dreams come true – even as motherhood continues to elude her

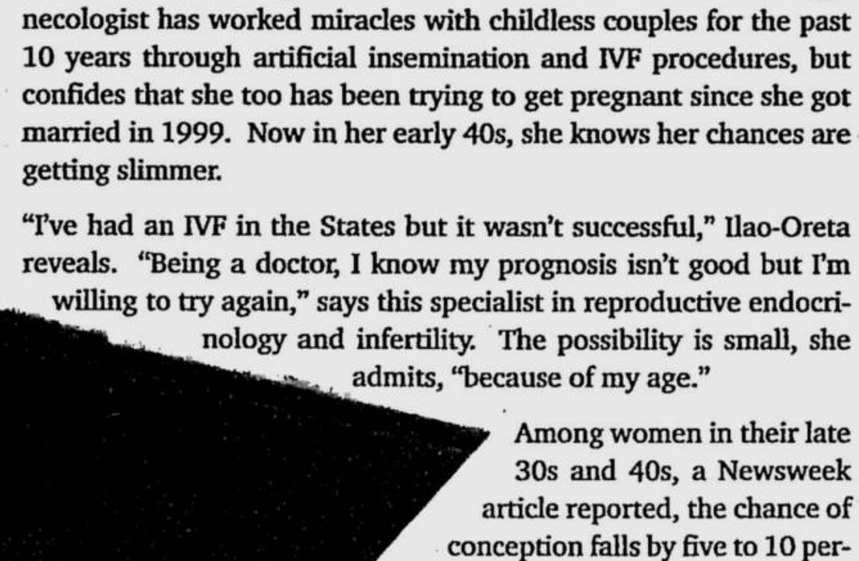
A Child of Their Own

SHORT OF DANCING AT OBANDO, BULACAN WHERE DEVOTION TO SAN PASCUAL IS SAID TO BLESS BARREN MARRIAGES, THE RAMIREZ COUPLE HAS TRIED EVERYTHING TO HAVE A CHILD. *"AYOKONG TUMANDA NANG WALANG KASAMA.* (I DON'T WANT TO GROW OLD ALONE)," SAYS ANA MAE CONTRERAS RAMIREZ, 41, OF HER CHILDLESS FOUR-YEAR UNION WITH CHILEAN HUSBAND MATIAS.

The trend towards late marriages among Filipino women and the double careers of most couples have upped the infertility rate. And so has the OFW phenomenon

But nothing worked, says this program manager of a community development NGO in London. Not the hormonal injections, not the laparoscopy procedure that showed she has healthy tubes, nor the forced holiday meant to give her and her husband more time together, not even the artificial insemination (AI) they tried for three cycles. They were seriously considering adoption when they realized they had one more option: in vitro fertilization (IVF).

Originally associated with test tube babies, IVF involves harvesting a woman's eggs from her follicles, uniting them in a petri dish with sperms from a donor (usually the husband) and implanting the fertilized eggs into the woman. Since IVF's first success story, Mary Louise Brown, was born in England in 1978, the procedure has taken off as a popular alternative among childless couples.



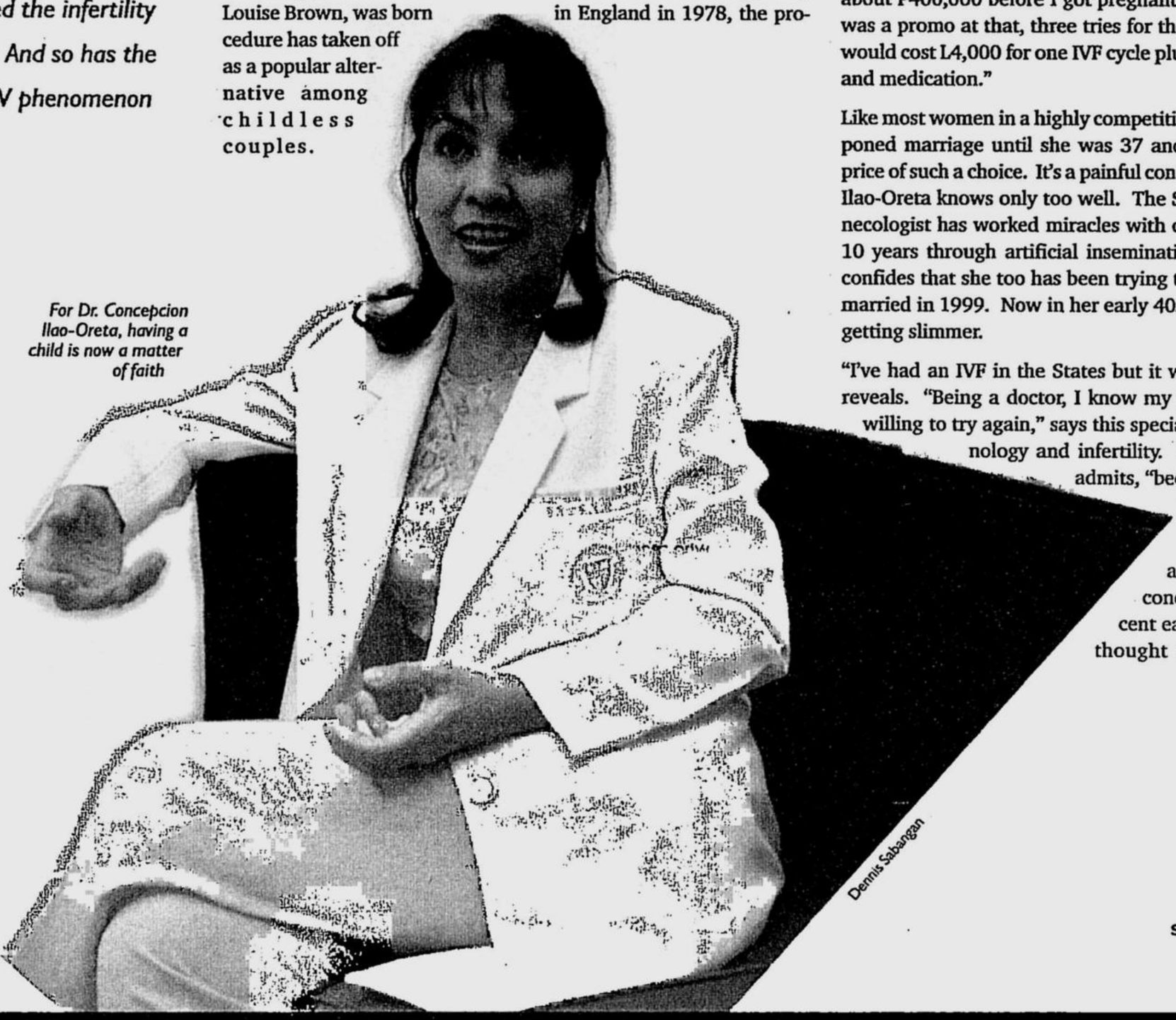
Yessir, that's my baby: Esteban Contreras-Ramirez

The only setback, says Ana Mae, is the cost. "We spent L6000 or about P400,000 before I got pregnant on the second cycle. And it was a promo at that, three tries for the price of two! Ordinarily, it would cost L4,000 for one IVF cycle plus L1,000 more for hormones and medication."

Like most women in a highly competitive job market, Ana Mae postponed marriage until she was 37 and belatedly realized the stiff price of such a choice. It's a painful consequence that Dr. Concepcion Ilao-Oreta knows only too well. The St. Luke's Medical Center gynecologist has worked miracles with childless couples for the past 10 years through artificial insemination and IVF procedures, but confides that she too has been trying to get pregnant since she got married in 1999. Now in her early 40s, she knows her chances are getting slimmer.

"I've had an IVF in the States but it wasn't successful," Ilao-Oreta reveals. "Being a doctor, I know my prognosis isn't good but I'm willing to try again," says this specialist in reproductive endocrinology and infertility. The possibility is small, she admits, "because of my age."

Among women in their late 30s and 40s, a Newsweek article reported, the chance of conception falls by five to 10 percent each year, hardly a comforting thought to Ilao-Oreta. "You'd think



For Dr. Concepcion Ilao-Oreta, having a child is now a matter of faith

Dennis Sabangan

Much Ado About Adoption

A Social Welfare Department consultant reveals why most Filipino couples would rather spend thousands on new birth technologies than consider the countless children just looking for a home.

IS the stuff of telenovelas: adopted daughter brutally endures the abuses of her adoptive sister, only to discover that she's the real heir after all. Conversely, as some soaps go, elderly couple takes home an orphan, raises and loves him but gets gypped of their lifetime savings by the wily foundling. With the bad press it gets, is it any wonder that adoption is hardly an option among childless Filipinos?

Atty. Elizabeth Pangalangan, a consultant of the Social Welfare department, confirms this: "Among Filipino couples, the preference is for children who are 'sprung (from one's loins)', so to speak. If the children come from us, we are more accepting of their flaws," says this member of the Child Welfare Specialist Group. As it is, she adds, Filipino prospective adoptive parents (PAP) can indicate their preferences because the radio is skewed in their favor. "There are 12 children for every adoptive couple, so *pinagbibigyan na* (they get their way)," says Pangalangan. Most PAP specify that the child be under one year "so they can be raised according to the values of the adoptive couple," in good health, with no negative background ("not a child of rape or incest"), and must have come from a family with no history of drug addiction or mental instability.

Pangalangan: Filipinos still want children from their own loins

Biases again show in the PAP's choice of gender, observes this DSWD consultant. "Filipino families traditionally want their firstborn to be a son because they assume that being male, he'd be more responsible and would carry the family name, etc.," says Pangalangan. "But when they adopt, couples prefer girls on the assumption that they'd be more docile and easier to manage."

It doesn't help that the country's adoption laws have been mired in bureaucratic muck that makes couples desperate enough to use unofficial channels like midwives to get a baby, and register the newborn as their own. Fortunately, such act has been decriminalized under the new laws on adoption which, explains Pangalangan, "are meant to ensure that the child ends up in a good home even if the search takes time."

Under RA 8552 or the Domestic Adoption Law which she helped draft, says this professor of Family Law at UP Diliman, several changes make it easier to adopt children. For one, single individuals are now allowed to adopt children, "subject to background investigation by social workers." Same-sex couples may also

To page 5

overpopulation is a problem in this country," she muses, "but there remains a 15-20 percent infertility rate among any given group of women." The usual causes, she adds, are "unovulation, endemetriosis, pelvic infection and inflammatory diseases." The trend towards late marriages among Filipino women and the double careers of most couples have upped the infertility rate, and so has the OFW phenomenon. "I usually advise overseas Filipino workers who are about to leave for work abroad to freeze their sperm and store them in sperm banks," says Ilao-Oreta. Unfortunately, she adds, the use of sperm or eggs from third party donors is not allowed in the Philippines. There are other guidelines from the Philippine Obstetrician and Gynecologist Society (POGS), says this OB-gyne. "I have to ask my patients for their marriage contract before we start procedures."

Cost is another big hurdle. That's why AI is the more popular option: "It's cheaper, more natural and has a higher success rate than IVF." Basically, the operation involves injecting the husband's sperm into his wife at a time when she is most fertile. Unless she has to do initial treatment on a woman's reproductive tract before she starts AI procedures, it's not very expensive, Ilao-Oreta says. "It's only P5,800 per insemination but I usually do that twice in a (woman's menstrual cycle) so the cost is about P11,000 plus," she reveals. "Most women get pregnant within six months after we start treatment, especially if the woman is not that old and the male factor is normal."

For couples like the Ramirezes who have tried AI in vain, IVF offers another possibility for parenthood. Women who go for in vitro fertilization, according to Ilao-Oreta, have up to a 60 percent chance of getting pregnant within the next six months after procedures are started. But again, a lot depends on the woman's age, with those in their 20s having the highest success rate. The doctor also allays fears about having twins, "unless you have a history of twinning in the family," even if three to four of the healthiest fertilized eggs are implanted in the woman's womb. Still, she cautions, "it's the implantation rate that's crucial. Only 20 percent of fertilized eggs finally get implanted."

The cost of an IVF is admittedly prohibitive. "Depending on the woman's age and the amount of medication she needs, IVF procedures can cost from P250,000 to P350,000 per cycle," says the doctor. And there is no guarantee. "Although the success rate of IVF is 30 to 40 percent, the take-home baby rate is only about 20 percent," she adds. "That's because once a woman gets pregnant via IVF, she faces the usual risk factors of ordinary pregnancies — ectopic, miscarriages, etc." But she assures: "The IVF procedure has a cumulative effect, which means that as you go along in succeeding cycles, your chance of conceiving is enhanced. That's because the doctor already knows how your body responds to medication and hormones so the dosage can be adjusted properly."

Among the hospitals that offer both AI and IVF services are St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City and the government-run Philippine General Hospital (PGH) in Taft Ave., Manila. "Locally, we only had our first successful IVF case in 1997," says Ilao-Oreta, who took her sub-specialty training in reproductive endocrinology at the University of Illinois, Chicago.

The procedure itself is simple enough to be considered an outpatient operation, says Ilao-Oreta, although as a patient herself, she admits to some discomfort: "My mom has expressed pity for me because the hormonal injections to stimulate egg production are painful," she says. "And the older you get, the more you need of these hormones. It's probably why I empathize with my patients better; I know how they feel."

Worse than the pain associated with fertility treatment is the stress, says Ana Mae Ramirez, who recalled going to the hospital for tests and hormonal injections after a full day's shift at work. "I learned to inject hormones to myself to hasten my eggs' release, but even then, the medications are regimented," she adds. "It's like 12 days for one injection, three days straight for another, and always, at certain times." Once, Ana Mae recalls, she and her husband got caught in traffic and it was all they could do to detour to a side road where they could park and she could inject herself with the hormones. On top of the pressure lurks possible heartbreak. In fact, it was only on the second cycle that she found herself pregnant, says Ana Mae. On May 29 this year, Esteban Contreras Ramirez was born.

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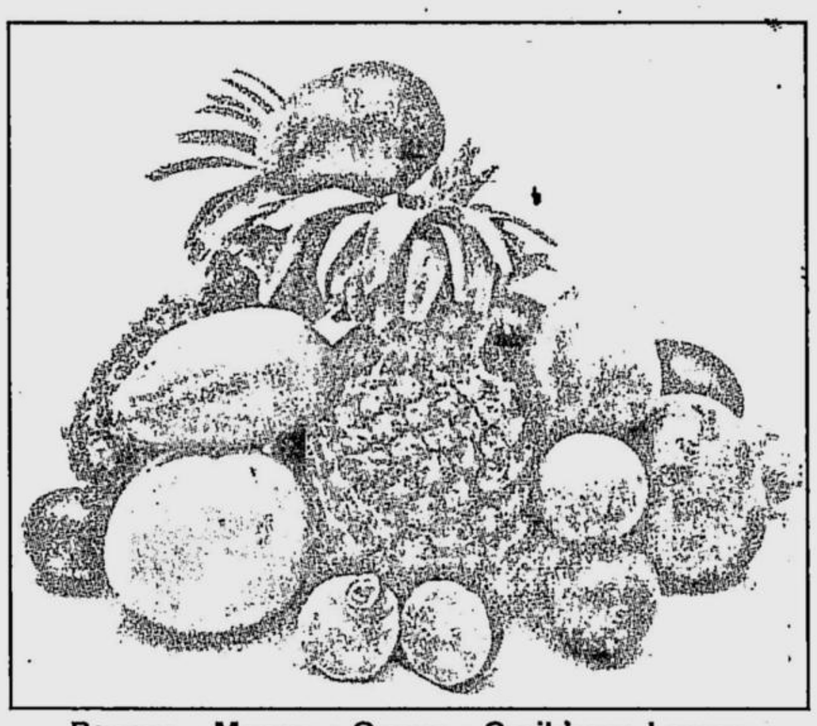

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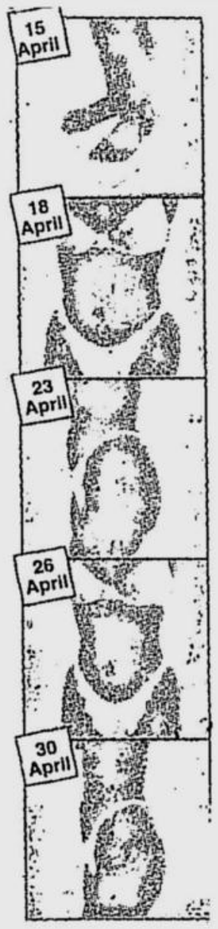

AHA.
Typical results:

1st Day = 70 kgs
At least 12 kgs to lose!

CERTIFIED

3rd Day = 67 kgs
3 kgs lost
A slimmer waist already

CERTIFIED

8th Day = 62 kgs
8 kgs lost
Buttocks firm once again

CERTIFIED

11th Day = 59 kgs
11 kgs lost
Stomach is flat
Decision to continue treatment

CERTIFIED

15th Day = 57 kgs
13 kgs lost
Mission accomplished: ideal weight, in shape, youth and beauty.

CERTIFIED

WANTED

Slim product is looking for 500* people who want to lose weight.

Free Trial.

Slim product has an amazing offer for 500 people who, in the Philippines, have tried many slimming products with no result. Here's what's involved:

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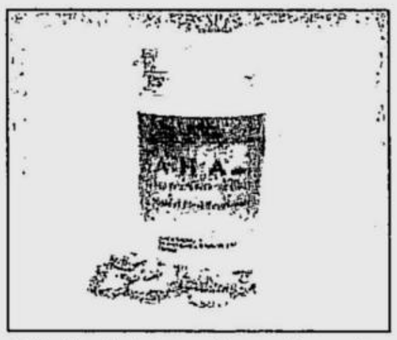
These pills have a synergetic effect, eliminating the absorption of calories and "burning" stored fat.

Even if you over eat, you will observe weight loss of up to 1 kilo per day during the first few days. Your body is obliged to lose weight. This is because this new discovery prevents the absorption of calories. Your body, to find the calories it needs to BURN YOUR EXCESS FAT.

This discovery enables people to lose weight who until now were unable to because their metabolism did not burn up sufficient calories, depending on the person, between 4 to 7 kgs the first week. **Thus, in the first few days you** will see the fatty pockets disappear from your hips, your thighs, your stomach, from everywhere which they had accumulated. The results are amazing when you look at yourself in the mirror after only two weeks. Not only do you look younger, you feel younger and above all, your body looks slim and attractive again..



AHA oblige the body to use its stored fat to replace food calories burned up by the mild acids of 6 carefully blended tropical fruits; with no negative effects on the body.

You want proof of the amazing effectiveness of AHA.

Slim product has an exceptional offer for you - **slim down first.**

Would you like to see for yourself the amazing effectiveness of AHA pills?

Mail Shopping Int'l Corp. will send you your AHA treatment, one free trial blister pack that you may use at no charge.

You will see, with no obligation on your part, that you will begin to lose weight in the first 24 hours and lose at least 4 to 7 kilos the first week.

If this is not the case or if, for any reason, you are not 100% satisfied, just return your unopened AHA treatment. A check with a full refund will be sent to you immediately, no questions asked.

Reply today to be one of the first 500 people to take advantage of this amazing offer.

* more, if possible

WARNING

Although AHA contain no medicinal products and are totally safe, you must not lose weight too quickly. If you lose more than 5 kilos during the first five days, stop taking the pills for 2 or 3 days at the end of the first week.

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I would like to try the free trial treatment, chosen below:

- ☐ P2,345 1 Free trial treatment + Best deal treatment of AHA (5 to 10 kgs) + P55 forwarding charges = P2,400
- ☐ P1,395 1 Free trial treatment + Good deal treatment of AHA (3 to 5 kgs) + P55 forwarding charges = P1,450
- ☐ P3,495 2 Free trial treatments + Extended treatment of AHA (more than 10 kgs) +P55 forwarding charges = P3,550
- ☐ P4,495 2 Free trial treatments + Maintenance treatment of AHA (more than 15 kgs) +P55 forwarding charges = P4,550

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- ☐ by postal money order (PMO) made out to M.S.I.C.
- ☐ I prefer to pay COD through the Phil. Postal Corp. upon receipt of package. In this case I pay P60 for COD charges.
- ☐ Whatever form of payment I choose, I wish to be served with absolute priority. I therefore tick this box and add P50 to my above payment.

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MUCH ADO...from page 4

adopt, "if one of them applies as a single individual." There is still resistance to gays being allowed to become PAPs, Pangalangan admits, mainly from orphanages run by religious orders. "So we source the adoptive children from other licensed child care facilities run or licensed by the DSWD." Sometimes, she adds, even couples wed under civil rites are vetoed by religious groups who insist that they be married in church first.

PAPs must also be of legal age and at least 16 years the senior of the adoptive child. They must also be economically stable and of good moral character as attested to by a DSWD interviewer and a letter of referral from community authorities. Couples who have other children 10 years or older must also take their youngsters to sign a consent form. Under the new law, only children may request their adoption if they are mature enough for and truly eager to join their adoptive family. Says Pangalangan, whose job it is to match adoptive children with PAP at the national capital region level, "we always put the child's interest first."

For this same reason, she adds, adoption procedures remain cautious and yes, tedious. In all, it could take up to one and a half years for the adoption to push through.

"First, we consider the child's next of kin or other relatives," says this assistant project director of the UP research group Reproductive Health Rights and Ethics Center for Studies and Training (Reprocen). Should no relative turn up, the child is put up for adoption with the DSWD investigating both the child's medical history and the PAP's circumstances or motives for wanting to adopt a child. It can take up to six months to gather the needed documents, from the couple's tax returns, to the marriage certificate and NBI clearance which, unfortunately, is good for only three months so that in the course of the adoption process, several may be needed. The couple is also expected to attend a half-day adoption forum where they are appraised of their rights and responsibilities as PAP. For the next six months, the couple is given trial custody of the child, with monitored visits by a social worker. Only after this period when no problem crops up can the PAP finally get a lawyer to prepare the adoption papers to be presented to a regional trial court that handles family law and will issue the adoption decree.

Again, notes Pangalangan, this process can take from four to six months as hearings on adoption cases are scheduled only on Tuesdays and Thursdays. "It's not a priority," she admits. Depending on the lawyer, legal fees and documentary expenses can run from P20,000 to P100,000 for a single adoption.

Most adoptive parents are in their mid-30s, are professionals ("although we get all kinds—from *sari-sari* store owners to policemen and so on," says Pangalangan), and have been married for at least five years. "Some have tried fertility workups and treatments and have spent a lot on these in the two years previous to their decision to adopt," she notes.

While adoption remains an unpopular option among Filipinos, there has been a noticeable rise in the number of adoptions among resident aliens and expats who work with ADB, the WHO, etc. in the last five years, adds this mother of four. "Foreigners are more open and enlightened about adoption, and take kindly even to children with disabilities and those who, by local standards, may be too old to adopt." To qualify as a PAP, the resident alien must have lived here for at least three years. Generally, they have to wait longer for the process to go through, "because additional supporting documents are needed, like police clearance from their previous places of residence and referral letters from neighbors here and abroad. Usually, they would have completed another year of residency here during the entire time that the adoption decree is being processed," says Pangalangan.

For PAPs who may wonder if they should tell their child about their being adopted and when, this DSWD consultant says there is no best age to do so. "It depends on the child's maturity, or perhaps, when they start asking. And yes, it is better to tell. After all, how many parents can truthfully tell their children, 'I chose you'?" asks Pangalangan. PAC

TWISTS...from page 4

Dr. Ilao-Oreta can only wish she were as lucky. "I've done everything, *eh wala pa rin*. Maybe it's not yet time." She shrugs: "I guess everything is in God's hands. After all, He made the whole universe. What is one child compared to that? If He wants to give me a child, He will." So far, she muses, she's found contentment in her close family ties with her mother and siblings who come over during weekends. There is also, adds this UERM medical graduate who took her residency at the PGH, "a sense of fulfillment that one has been used by God to help others. I've learned to share the joy of couples who I've helped become parents. It's like I'm part of that family."

Dennis Sabangan

Dr. Ilao-Oreta rues the legal, moral and ethical issues that surround new birth technologies

As one who constantly negotiates with God, nature and science for the privilege of bearing a child, the doctor can only rue the rules that have made new birth technologies such a landmine of legal, moral and ethical issues. "Who are we to judge a couple?" asks Ilao-Oreta. "It's so easy to make rules but sometimes, we are hurting other couples who may not have the means to go abroad to have third party sperm or egg donors."

According to Atty. Elizabeth Pangalangan, an assistant director of the UP Manila-based research group, Reprocen, the New Family Code provides that children conceived from AI are "considered legitimate even with third-party donor sperm if the procedure was done with the husband's consent. Without it, the child is deemed illegitimate and is entitled to only half the share of the legitimate heirs." The law is silent on IVF, however.

The Catholic Church has pitched in with questions on morality and human dignity: Why tamper with nature and play God by using science to conceive? Why use the fetus as an object of experimentation? Ripostes Fr. Daniel Paul Kroger, OFM, of De La Salle University's Religious Studies Department: "But we've been playing God ever since we introduced agriculture and improved on nature!" Kroger believes that a reasonable control over nature is acceptable, "as long as it benefits life and health."

The Catholic Church's reservations are shared by Filipino Muslims, according to Dr. Yassir Ismael of the UP Institute of Islamic Studies. Islam, he reveals, prohibits the introduction of third party donors into the reproductive process. "Artificial insemination is acceptable only if the husband's sperm is used and within an intact marriage."

The Church objects to AI as well but for a totally different reason, notes Ilao-Oreta. "It does not approve of the usual method used to come up with sperm samples, which is masturbation. It's a sin, according to the Church. So I always tell the husbands: think of your wife when you're doing it."

In a forum on reproductive birth technologies organized by the Women's Feature Service and Food Foundation, women's groups raised other concerns: Are women again being consigned to become mere baby-makers at the cost of their health? How free is a couple's reproductive choice when the procedures are clearly beyond their means?

Ana Mae hardly thought of such considerations when she and husband Matias decided to go for AI and IVF. But, she adds, if they can weigh in based on actual experience, they would tell hesitant couples to go for it. "There's nothing like the joy of finally holding one's own child," says Ana Mae. "If a couple can afford it, they should have no second thoughts. The technology is there, so why not use it? It will make you happy the rest of your life."

Noteworthy

Adopting an Eaglet

How a beautiful Philippine species was assured of a better future, thanks to enlightened anonymous godparents and dedicated environmental workers

"SERENDIPITY" WAS THE WORD USED BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STOYM AWARDEE DENNIS I. SALVADOR TO DESCRIBE HOW A MAJOR DONATION FROM A GENEROUS COUPLE FOUND ITS WAY TO THE PHILIPPINE EAGLE FOUNDATION.

A few weekends ago, the couple strolled into the Philippine Eagle Center at Malagos, as guests of a local university. The accompanying hosts recognized Deputy Dir. Doming Tadena, captive breeding head, and requested him to accompany them on a tour.

The couple listened intently as Deputy Dir. Tadena passionately explained the need to save the Philippine eagle from extinction and the larger problems the mission represented, such as the continuing degradation of forests and the loss of biological diversity. At the end of his impassioned speech the couple asked, "How can we help?"

Among the Foundation's most urgent needs are for godparents who can help pay for the housing and maintenance of two eagles born last year. By the end of the afternoon, the couple had adopted the eaglet, donating the entire six-year funding in one go to enable Foundation to use the money's earnings, as well.

A few days later, the couple came back with their gift donation. Their one request: "No media or photo releases." The casual turnover ceremony was witnessed by one of their children, the university hosts and the Foundation team.

Many would define serendipity as pure luck, but as PEF President Carlos A. Pedrosa puts it, "Serendipity happens when the right circumstances are in place. In this case, it brought together an enlightened couple who saw beyond the symbolism of the Philippine eagle, and a group of people who work endlessly against environmental degradation.

"With the Philippine Eagle Foundation, I have seen landmark results that could not be explained – they just happened – and I attribute this to the dedication, perseverance and hard work that the entire Malagos and Davao Philippine Eagle team have put into creating a legacy for a healthy environment. That's the bottom line – leaving our children with clean water and clean air by preserving the country's rainforests, the eagle's habitat."

You can contact the Philippine Eagle Foundation Inc. at tel. (082) 224-3021 or 224-3022.

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	₱100,000 accidental death benefit	₱200,000 accidental death benefit	₱400,000 accidental death benefit	₱600,000 accidental death benefit	₱800,000 accidental death benefit	₱1,000,000 accidental death benefit	₱2,000,000 accidental death benefit

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36-39	121.90	1,380.00	243.80	2,760.00	487.60	5,520.00	731.40	8,280.00	975.20	11,040.00	1,219.00	13,800.00	2,438.00	27,600.00
40-43	151.90	1,720.00	303.80	3,440.00	607.60	6,880.00	911.40	10,320.00	1,215.20	13,760.00	1,519.00	17,200.00	3,038.00	34,400.00
44-47	193.90	2,196.00	387.80	4,392.00	775.60	8,784.00	1,163.40	13,176.00	1,551.20	17,568.00	1,939.00	21,960.00	3,878.00	43,920.00
48-50	231.90	2,624.00	463.80	5,248.00	927.60	10,496.00	1,391.40	15,744.00	1,855.20	20,992.00	2,319.00	26,240.00	4,638.00	52,480.00
51-53	277.90	3,144.00	555.80	6,288.00	1,111.60	12,576.00	1,667.40	18,864.00	2,223.20	25,152.00	2,779.00	31,440.00	5,558.00	62,880.00
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Cover Story

by Eric S. Caruncho
photographs by Eddie Boy Escudero

With a solo album finally completed, rock icon Joey "Pepe" Smith marks a career milestone. Wherever he goes from here, though, one thing's for sure: He'll always be Lola's boy

Hard Rock, Soft Spot

THE OLD WOMAN IS TOOTHLESS AND BENT DOUBLE WITH AGE, AND THERE IS A MILKY WHITE FILM OVER THE IRISES OF BOTH EYES BLINKING IN THE PALE AFTERNOON LIGHT. BUT THERE IS ALSO A GLINT BEHIND THEM AS SHE TALKS ABOUT HER FAVORITE GRANDSON.

"*Napakabait na bata 'yang si* Joseph," she says in that low, quivering voice old people have. "*Walang makapagsasabi na may sinalbahe si* Joseph. *May nabalitaan na ba kayo na may masamang* record *'yan?*"

She pauses, and the wrinkled mouth curves into the barest hint of a smile.

"*Yung ibang* record *niya...alam n'yo na kung ano 'yon,*" she says, running a finger under her nose. (No one can tell you that Joseph ever did anyone harm. Have you heard anything about him having a bad record? As for his other record...well, you know what that is.)

Born Concordia Go in 1912, the woman everybody calls "Lola" – sometimes "Lola Smith" – is now 89 and frail. A similar air of decrepitude and faded gentility hangs over the living room of her old house in Kamuning, bought, she says, for P600 before the war. What must have been the latest modern conveniences of 1951 lay gathering dust and cobwebs. But the memories remain fresh, specially the ones concerning her grandson, Pinoy rock pioneer Joey "Pepe" Smith.

"*Ganyan lang si* Joey *nang namatay si* Smithy," she says, holding her hand about three feet above the floor. A former US Navy pilot, Edgar William Smith succumbed to bone cancer, leaving Joey and younger brother Raymond in the care of their mother. Shortly after Joey's eighth birthday, his mother Conchita – Lola's only child – died suddenly of hepatitis, leaving both boys in Lola's care. They were sent for in Clark Air Base, and settled in Lola's house in Kamuning.

Early on, Joey showed an affinity for music, especially rhythms. Lola's coathangers would often disappear, turned into makeshift drumsticks with which the boy would practise drumming patterns on the sidewalk. Later on, when he was older, Joey would sneak over to the house of a friend who lived four blocks away. The friend owned a real drum kit which Joey would practise on.

"*Naloko 'yan sa* drums," recalls Lola. "*Binabantayan ko sa pintuan ng eskuwela, baka pumuslit.*"

(He went ga-ga over drums. I would stand guard at the school gate in case he tried to skip classes.)

A disciplinarian of the old school, Lola believed in "spare the rod, spoil the child." She was especially on her guard against Joey falling into bad company.

"*Nakabantay ako diyan,*" she remembers. "*Sinusundan ko pa 'yan pag nababarkada dahil ang mga kaibigan niyan, nagnanakaw ng manok sa kapitbahay, papatayin, tapos kakanin!*"

(I would watch out and follow him because some of his friends would steal chickens from the neighbors and eat them.)

Lola's weapon of choice was the rubber hose – common in most households when kerosene was the cooking fuel of choice – with which she would whack Joey mercilessly whenever she caught him running with shiftless chicken thieves, all the way home.

"*Maliit pa si Joey, sinusuheto ko na 'yan,*" she recalls.
(I disciplined him from when he was small.)

Lola also frowned on Joey's obsession with pop music, at least in the beginning. She put her foot down when her grandson started staying out all night practising with band mates, or playing at weekend parties. She would lie in wait in the kitchen and ambush Joey when he tried to sneak in.

"*Minsan dumating 'yan, umaga na, may dala-dalang 'kulele. Ba't ngayon ka lang! Alam mo ginawa ko? Pinukpok ko sa kanya ang 'kulele! Ba't hindi ka umuwi kagabi? Tapos hinampas ko sa sahig ang 'kulele, durog-durog! Kaya hindi naging salbahe ang Joey – sinusuheto ko.*"

Like the music that drives him, Joey Smith's grandmother is an essential part of his life

(One time he came home late with a ukelele. You know what I did? I broke it over his head.)

As Joey got older, however, dissuading him from playing in combos became a lost cause, and Lola conceded. Besides, Lolo indulged the boy, even borrowing drums so he could practise at home, much to the chagrin of the neighbors.

In 1959, Joey formed his first bona fide group, the Blue Jazzers. Six months later, he changed the band's name to the catchier Villains. When the surf music craze hit town, they became The Surfers and landed a six-month gig in Saigon in the early years of the Vietnam War. Finally, at the peak of global Beatlemania, Joey joined the Downbeats, the group with which he first tasted rock stardom, such as it was in Manila in the '60s.

"Noong araw, pag-umuwi 'yan galing sa tugtog, nakahanda na ang isang basong Klim na may dalawang pula ng itlog. Pag Linggo, ang ulam nila bulalo, mechado."

(When he came home from a gig, there would be a glass of milk with two egg yolks waiting for him. Sundays there would be *bulalo* and *mechado*.)

Eventually, Joey left the Downbeats to join the legendary Juan de la Cruz Band, helping usher in the golden age of Pinoy rock in the early '70s. At the height of their fame, the Juan de la Cruz Band could fill stadiums such as the Araneta Coliseum. Lola was there.

"Noong araw nagpupunta pa ako sa tugtugan," she recalls. *"Bumabayad pa ako sa Araneta pag hindi ako nabibigyan ng ticket. Noong araw sinisipa ni Joey ang drums."*

(I used to go to the concerts. I would even buy tickets to Araneta Coliseum. Joey used to kick his drums over.)

Through the ups and downs of his career as the country's first (some say only) rock star, Lola has been the one constant in Pepe's tumultuous life. Pepe has had at least four major relationships and about as many children. The women came and went, as did the money, the cars and the rock'n'roll lifestyle. But Lola remained.

When Pepe was busted for possession in 1992 and served 19 months in the Quezon City Jail, singing *"Ang Himig Natin"* for the other inmates, Lola was there to visit. No rubber hose this time, just a gentle admonition to be more careful next time.

When Pepe's eldest daughter Queenie (now singing with the showband Civil Eyes), whom Lola also brought up since she was little, delivered Pepe's first grandchild, Lola was there to pay the hospital bill.

And now that times are tight, Joey and family have once again moved into Lola's house in Kamuning.

"Alam mo, wala din namang suwerte si Joey," Lola shakes her head sadly.

(Joey has never had the luck.)

But who can tell when luck will turn?

Some people say that Pepe has lost it, that he's too addled with chemicals, too lazy or simply too old to regain the old spark. But anyone who has followed Joey Smith's career can tell you: never write Pepe off.

The man has fallen and crawled back so many times he seems indestructible. Or at least his liver is.

Pepe himself admits that in the bad old days, he came pretty close to entering that great rock'n'roll hall of fame in the sky more than once. One time, after a case of mistaken identity, he almost became a salvage victim. And earlier this year, he walked away from the car crash that killed fellow musician Noe Espino a.k.a. Bespren Diego, with barely a scratch.

And now, 25 years since leaving the Juan de la Cruz band, Pepe has a real, honest-to-goodness solo album. Finally.

Although he wrote the official Pinoy rock anthem *"Ang Himig Natin,"* and several of Juan de la Cruz's hits, Pepe has never had a solo album. A number of cult classics such as "Summer Winds" and "Dr. Quack" were released as radio singles, credited to Joey Smith and the Airwaves. But due to one snafu or another, a solo album never materialized.

(Urban legend has it that sometime in the late '70s, Pepe composed an entire album's worth of material for what was to be Nonoy Marcelo's full-length animated feature "Alyas Pepeng Kidlat" after sequestering himself and the other musicians in a rented apartment for several weeks. When the time came to record the songs in the studio, according to this particular legend, Pepe had completely forgotten all the lyrics.)

No such problem with the current project (working title: "Ploink!"). Judging from the preliminary mix, it is a solid slab of classic Pinoy rock. Recorded with guitar ace Jun Lopito and bassist extraordinaire Dondi Ledesma, the project's mix of blues, ballads and solid raunch'n'roll showcases not only the trio's instrumental virtuosity, but the frontman's old stage charisma as well.

As the opening number, a classic blues stomper driven by Lopito's searing slide guitar, announces:

"'Eto na ako. Handa na ba kayo?" (Here I am. Are you ready?)

☑ P1,000,000 in life insurance
☑ P2,000,000 for accidental loss
☑ P45,000 a month (P1,500 a day) up to P1,500,000 cash for hospital care
☑ P90,000 a month (P3,000 a day) up to P3,000,000 cash for dread disease

Plus...if you make no claims, a maximum...

P687,000 CASH BONUS

Now...The Moneyplus Plan

An insurance-investment program that sensibly combines all your most essential insurance needs - life and accident insurance, hospital cash benefit, double cash benefit for dread disease, convalescence and surgical benefits... plus a high value cash bonus if you remain in perfect health. An investment that more than pays for itself.

Life Insurance that Increases in Value automatically for 10 Years Until Coverage Doubles.

Pays up to P500,000 in life insurance coverage which increases by P50,000 each year until your coverage doubles to P1,000,000. In effect, you are protected with P1,000,000 from the tenth to the twentieth year at no extra cost.

Double Life Benefits for Accidental Death.

Pays up to P1,000,000 for accidental death which increases by P100,000 each year until your coverage doubles to P2,000,000.

Valuable Income of P45,000 a month in case of Hospitalization.

Pays up to P1,500,000 (P1,500 a day or P45,000 a month) cash when you are hospitalized due to illness or injury, payable from the very first day of hospitalization. Cash Benefits are paid directly to you in addition to any other insurance you may have.

P90,000 a month DOUBLE BENEFITS for Dread Disease.

Certain illnesses by their very nature require long and complex hospital care treatment that easily force a family into long-term debt. That's why the Moneyplus Plan pays up to P3,000,000 (P3,000 a day or P90,000 a month) cash for confinement due to a dread disease.

Additional Lumpsum Cash for Convalescence and Surgical.

Pays up to **P15,000** for convalescence when you are hospitalized for 30 days or more to pay for medicines or nursing care, whatever you choose. The Company also pays for any premium falling due during this extended confinement. In addition, the Moneyplus Plan pays up to P15,000 cash for every covered surgery.

Free Anti-Inflation Benefit.

The simple fact is that, during times of inflation, families are required to maintain the value of their medical insurance by buying more and more coverages. This can be a very costly solution. Under the Moneyplus Plan, your hospital cash, dread disease cash, convalescence and surgical benefits increase by 10% each year up to 50% *at no cost on your part.*

Terminal Illness Benefit.

Pays an advance life proceeds of up to **P250,000** if you are diagnosed with a terminal illness.

Shorter Paying Period - Extended Protection for Free.

Premiums are payable for only **10 years** but full coverage is for 20 years. The Moneyplus Plan in effect extends protection from the 11th to the 20th year, the time you needed it most, *absolutely for free.*

Guaranteed No Medical Examination.

Guarantees easy and convenient enrollment with no medical examination to undergo and no complex forms to fill-out if you enroll before the deadline date.

Finally, a High Value Cash Bonus for Staying Healthy.

The Moneyplus Plan guarantees in writing to pay you a Cash Bonus of up to P687,000 if you have not made a claim during the full 20 years of continuous coverage. You are actually rewarded with an amount equal to more than double the premiums you paid for remaining in perfect health.

Pre-Existing Conditions.

To keep premiums low, no benefit shall be provided for Hospital Confinement resulting from a Sickness or Injury for which you received treatment, or you have consulted a physician for treatment, or you have been taking medications during the 12 months prior to the effective date of this Policy until you are free of treatment or consultation or medication for 12 consecutive months.

THE MONEYPLUS PLAN GUARANTEES

All your annualized premiums will be returned plus 6% interest compounded annually, if after twenty years of continuous coverage, you have not made a claim. You must collect through this program, even when you remain in perfect health.

URIEL S. BALBOA
President

100% Satisfaction Guarantee.

We insist you send no money with your Enrollment. Examine your Moneyplus Plan policy as closely as thoughtfully as you like for 10 days. Insurance decisions are among the most important you'll ever make. So we want you to be 100% certain that this program suits your personal insurance needs.

If, after reviewing your policy, you are not completely convinced, simply return your policy, and there will be no obligation on your part. No salesman will call...the decision is yours alone to make.

LIFE BENEFIT

YEAR	PLAN 500	PLAN 300	PLAN 200	PLAN 100	PLAN 50
1	P550,000	P330,000	P220,000	P110,000	P55,000
2	600,000	360,000	240,000	120,000	60,000
3	650,000	390,000	260,000	130,000	65,000
4	700,000	420,000	280,000	140,000	70,000
5	750,000	450,000	300,000	150,000	75,000
6	800,000	480,000	320,000	160,000	80,000
7	850,000	510,000	340,000	170,000	85,000
8	900,000	540,000	360,000	180,000	90,000
9	950,000	570,000	380,000	190,000	95,000
10-20	1,000,000	600,000	400,000	200,000	100,000

ACCIDENTAL DEATH BENEFIT

The benefits indicated in the Table of Life Benefit above will be **doubled** in case of death due to accident.

HOSPITALIZATION BENEFITS

DAILY HOSPITAL CASH

1	P1,500	P900	P600	P300	P150
2	1,650	990	660	330	165
3	1,800	1,080	720	360	180
4	1,950	1,170	780	390	195
5	2,100	1,260	840	420	210
6-20	2,250	1,350	900	450	225
MAXIMUM	1,500,000	900,000	600,000	300,000	150,000

DOUBLE DAILY DREAD DISEASE CASH

The benefits indicated in the table of Daily Hospital Cash above will be **doubled** in case of hospital confinement due to *cancer, leukemia, multiple sclerosis, poliomyelitis, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy or cirrhosis of the liver.*

CONVALESCENCE

1	P15,000	P9,000	P6,000	P3,000	P1,500
2	16,500	9,900	6,600	3,300	1,650
3	18,000	10,800	7,200	3,600	1,800
4	19,500	11,700	7,800	3,900	1,950
5	21,000	12,600	8,400	4,200	2,100
6-20	22,500	13,500	9,000	4,500	2,250

MAXIMUM SURGICAL

1	P15,000	P9,000	P6,000	P3,000	P1,500
2	16,500	9,900	6,600	3,300	1,650
3	18,000	10,800	7,200	3,600	1,800
4	19,500	11,700	7,800	3,900	1,950
5	21,000	12,600	8,400	4,200	2,100
6-20	22,500	13,500	9,000	4,500	2,250

CASH BONUS

AGE	PLAN 500	PLAN 300	PLAN 200	PLAN 100	PLAN 50
18 - 29	P215,000	P129,000	P86,000	P43,000	P21,000
30 - 34	246,000	147,000	98,000	49,000	24,000
35 - 39	298,000	179,000	119,000	59,000	29,000
40 - 44	383,000	230,000	153,000	76,000	38,000
45 - 49	506,000	304,000	202,000	101,000	50,000
50 - 54	687,000	412,000	274,000	137,000	68,000

MONTHLY PREMIUMS
(10 Years to Pay - 20 Years Full Coverage)

AGE	PLAN 500	PLAN 300	PLAN 200	PLAN 100	PLAN 50
18 - 29	P796.95	P477.95	P317.95	P158.95	P78.95
30 - 34	910.95	545.95	363.95	181.95	90.95
35 - 39	1,104.95	662.95	441.95	220.95	109.95
40 - 44	1,419.95	851.95	567.95	283.95	141.95
45 - 49	1,875.95	1,124.95	749.95	374.95	186.95
50 - 54	2,541.95	1,524.95	1,016.95	507.95	253.95

The premium rates above are based on your age when you apply. Premiums may also be paid quarterly, semi-annually or annually at discounted rates. You save as much as 10% on premiums by paying annually.

MANILA BANKERS LIFE
INSURANCE CORPORATION

ACT NOW...
SEND NO MONEY!
NO RISK...NO OBLIGATION.

Fill-out, sign and mail your enrollment to:
Moneyplus Plan
Manila Bankers Life Insurance Corporation
12th/F TMBC Bldg., Ayala Ave., 1200 Makati City

FAX: 816-0689 816-4593 **HOTLINES:** 816-0604*816-0123 815-0170* 812-4406

FIRM AND FINAL DEADLINE September 19, 2001

Moneyplus Plan Enrollment Form

Please send me my MONEYPLUS POLICY if I qualify. I understand that this does not obligate me in any way and that I will have an opportunity to inspect my policy for up to 10 days before I accept it. I understand that the insurance will take effect when my policy is issued and I have paid my first premium during my lifetime.

(PLEASE PRINT)
FULL NAME (Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.) _____
(PLEASE CIRCLE) *First* *Middle* *Last*
COMPLETE ADDRESS _____
_____ ZIP CODE _____ TEL. NO./FAX _____
DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____
Month/Day/Year
AGE _____ ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE HEIGHT _____ WEIGHT _____
OCCUPATION/PROFESSION _____
SPECIFIC DUTIES _____
BUSINESS ADDRESS _____
_____ ZIP CODE ____ TEL. NO./FAX _____
FULL NAME OF BENEFICIARY _____
(For Life Benefits) ☐ *Revocable* ☐ *Irrevocable*
RELATIONSHIP TO YOU _____ AGE _____
Please check the Plan you require:
☐ Plan 500 ☐ Plan 400 ☐ Plan 300 ☐ Plan 200 ☐ Plan 100 ☐ Plan 50

(Fill-out if you wish to enroll your spouse)
SPOUSE'S NAME _____
First *Middle* *Last*
Please check the Plan your spouse requires:
☐ Plan 500 ☐ Plan 400 ☐ Plan 300 ☐ Plan 200 ☐ Plan 100 ☐ Plan 50
DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____ AGE _____
SPOUSE'S OCCUPATION _____ HEIGHT _____ WEIGHT _____
SPECIFIC DUTIES _____
SPOUSE'S BENEFICIARY _____
(For Life Benefits) ☐ *Revocable* ☐ *Irrevocable*
RELATIONSHIP TO SPOUSE _____ AGE _____

PLEASE CHECK "YES" OR "NO" TO EACH QUESTION

	YOU		YOUR SPOUSE	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
1. Have you or your spouse *(if to be insured)* consulted any doctor for medical treatment, or advice for treatment, or confined in a hospital, clinic or similar institution during the past five years?				
2. Have you or your spouse *(if to be insured)* ever been advised that you had: heart trouble, high blood pressure, cancer, diabetes, epilepsy or tuberculosis? *(If "YES", please circle which ailments)*				
3. Are you or your spouse *(if to be insured)* aware of any impairment in your health, or physical condition?				

If you answered "YES" to any of the above questions, please give full details:
(Use separate sheet if necessary)
Person Treated _____ Physician's Name _____
Address _____ Name of Hospital _____
Date and Nature of Consultation/Sickness/Impairment _____

I understand that my Moneyplus Policy will be issued based on the above statements which I represent are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I hereby authorize any physician, hospital, clinic or other medically related facility to furnish MANILA BANKERS LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION with any and all information regarding my medical history and physical condition in connection with this application.

YOUR SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____
(Sign - do not print)
YOUR SPOUSE'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____
(If to be insured) *(Sign - do not print)*

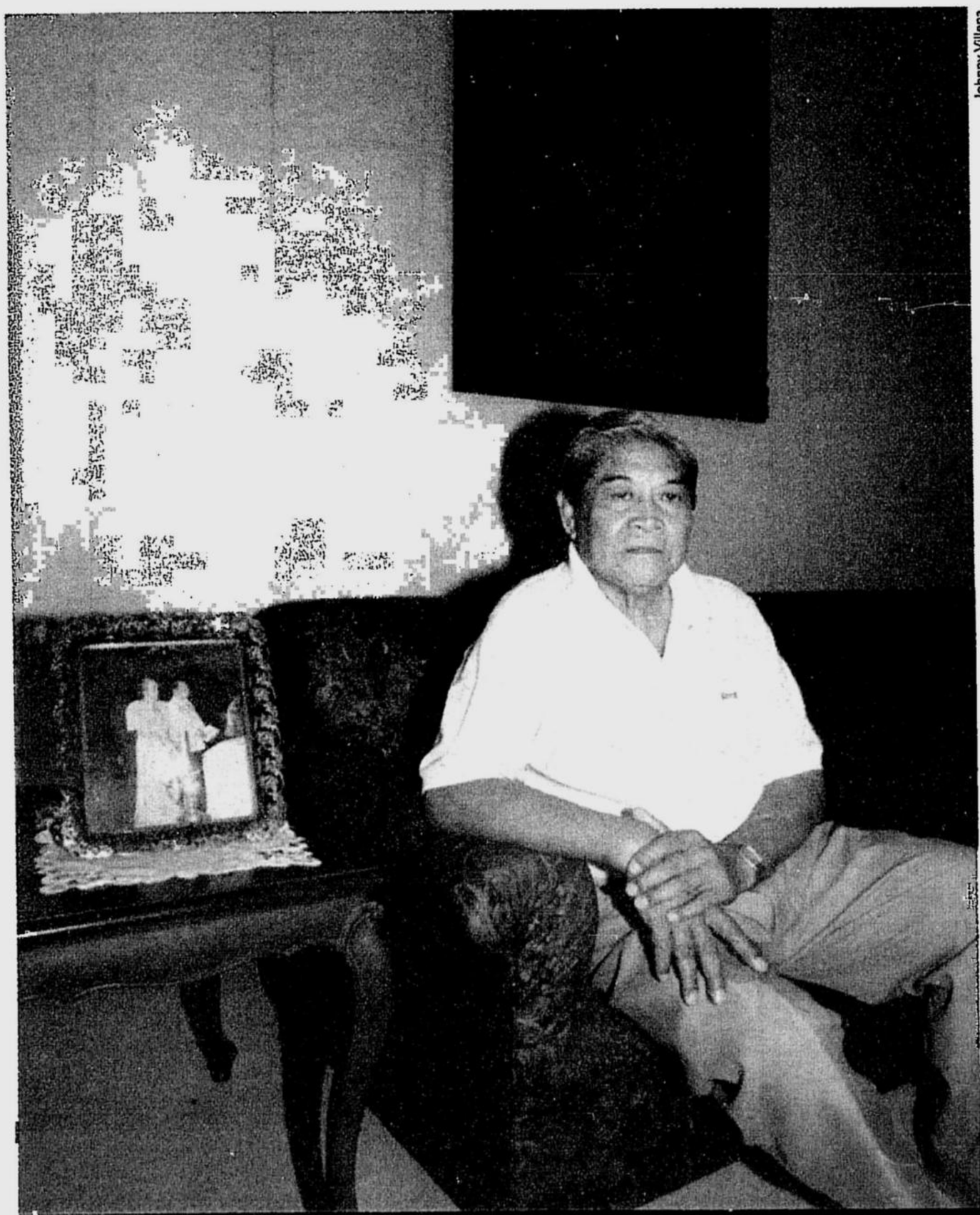
I authorize you to charge the MONEYPLUS PLAN monthly premiums to my credit card:
☐ Equitable Visa ☐ Equitable Mastercard ☐ Diners Club
☐ Bankard ☐ Bankard Mastercard
Card No. ☐☐☐☐-☐☐☐☐-☐☐☐☐-☐☐☐☐
Expiry Date: _____ Amount: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

12-0909-MP-C

Old Faithful

HE WAS A 20-YEAR-OLD CEBUANO NEWLY ARRIVED IN MANILA IN 1948. "LIFE WAS DIFFICULT IN TOLEDO," RECALLS ALFREDO BAYER CANTILA. "MY FATHER WAS A POOR FISHERMAN SO I SOUGHT A BETTER LIFE IN MANILA." FATE FOUND HIM AT AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY WHERE HE WAS PROMPTLY HIRED BY THE OWNER, MARCIAL SEBASTIAN, TO HELP OUT IN THEIR POULTRY. CANTILA LATER COURTED AND MARRIED THE FAMILY COOK, CELESTINA GUILLERMO, WHO HAILS FROM CAMILING, TARLAC. WHEN CELES WAS ABOUT TO GIVE BIRTH, THEY WENT HOME TO TARLAC, AND NEVER LEFT.

Today, Cantila, 73, can justifiably say that the houseboy has come a long way. He has dined with a President, raised his glass with diplomats and traveled abroad with members of some of the country's wealthiest families. For 40 years, Cantila has served the family of Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, starting from the time when the young mayor was getting ready for his first bid at a congressional seat.



Johnny Villena

He started out as valet to Don Peping, became butler and confidante to *Lolo* Pepe (Jose Cojuangco, Sr.), and was the majordomo for the family matriarch Doña Metring, or *Lola* Ma, in the family's Forbes Park residence.

"I have served the family faithfully and honestly, never betraying their trust through the good and bad times," says *Tatang* Fred. Indeed, from serving at the dining table at Hacienda Luisita, the man has become part of the family. *Tatang* Fred recalls how, at the wedding of Don Peping's daughter Mikee Cojuangco and Dodot Jaworski, he found himself right behind former President Cory Aquino, Don Peping's sister. The guests filed past the strict reception committee who meticulously checked the guest list. When *Tatang* Fred's turn came, they could not find his name.

"*Sino pong nag-imbita sa inyo*? (Who invited you, sir?)" asked the person in charge. "*Eh, di si* Mikee," he said in a low, but somewhat, agitated tone. Cory must have heard him because she turned around and said, 'Hi, Fred.' "*Tuloy na po kayo,*" smiled the otherwise zealous usherette.

It had been much easier to enter the Malacañang grounds when *Lolo* Pepe's daughter was President of the Republic, he recalls. "The guards at Arlegui would just wave me through," Cantila adds. "I would bring foodstuff. One time I came a bit early, just before six in the morning, bringing some fresh seafood. To my surprise, Ma'am Cory was already awake. She said, 'You're early, Fred,' and I said, '*Kayo rin po,* Ma'am.' She was taking coffee and *pan de sal* and reading some papers."

Tatang Fred will not forget the two Malacañang *vin d' honneurs* that he attended. "I was a guest, no less," he says proudly. As he moved around, holding a stemmed glass in one hand and a canapé on the other, he again told himself how far he's come from being a country bumpkin from Cebu.

Being in the presence of the rich and famous is nothing new to this old hand of the Cojuangco clan. Captains of industry, pedigreed couples, fresh-faced fashion models, brawny heartthrobs of the hardcourt and famous faces from the entertainment world—they had all come and gone to the Cojuangco home.

And of course, there were previous Presidents of the Republic, Senate presidents, House speakers and sundry politicians, in varying stages of moving up or coming down the pinnacle of power. They came for parties and family celebrations. But they came too for caucuses, secret meetings, and planning sessions. Here, alliances were formed, revolutions hatched, and the fate of a nation decided. To them all, he was *Tatang* Fred, discreet, reliable and always there.

Keeping watch over *Lolo* Pepe's frail health also meant keeping the old man and his wife company when they traveled abroad. "The first time I joined them, six of their grandchildren came too. We had a stopover at Beirut, then flew on to Rome, Barcelona, Geneva, Amsterdam. And then it was on to New York where we stayed for a long time in the apartment of Ma'am Josephine (Mrs. Nicanor Reyes, Jr.) who was then taking her graduate studies."

He dressed the part of the well-traveled cosmopolite. "*Lolo* Pepe had several suits tailor made for me. Every time we went out, he would fix my necktie."

Tatang Fred has been witness to many happy events in the family. He was there when the eldest granddaughter, Marisse Reyes (now Mrs.

McMurray), turned 16. He was there when Don Pepe and *Lola* Ma celebrated their 50th anniversary at the Intercontinental Hotel. When Don Pepe became a Knight of Malta, he also sat beside the other members of the family at the Casino Español reception.

Christenings, debuts, graduation parties, banquets for the new professionals in the family, weddings—he would be there in his *barong Tagalog*. When Don Peping and Tingting celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at the Fort Santiago, he joined the reception line since he was the only one who knew the Cojuangcos, Sumulongs, Aquinos and all the other relatives and appendages to the clan.

For his loyalty, *Tatang* Fred has been rewarded amply. For one, he and *Nana* Celes have been given a comfortable home in a 300-meter lot in the exclusive section of the Don Pepe Cojuangco Homes reserved for the executives of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac. Living next door are his midwife daughter Jasmin, her husband Dr. Ruben Mangrubang, a dentist at the Azucarera hospital, and the couple's two grown-up children: Ross, a licensed medical technologist now taking up medicine at FEU, and Al, a dentistry student at UE.

In 1999, *Tatang* Fred and *Nana* Celes celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the *hacienda* chapel. The principal sponsors were Don Pedro and Doña Sari, who came with the latter's sister, socialite Dely Castillejo.

"We had tents all around and the food was very good," *Tatang* Fred recounts. "We had *paella* and *lechon*. We had six pigs, all given by *inaanaks*."

Today, the younger Cojuangcos and their spouses still look to the man for their needs. And he continues to be around for them: fetching a thirsty child a glass of water, answering phone calls, setting the table for a party of 12 or 80, arranging floral centerpieces, or cooking their favorite *leche flan* thick as a half-gallon ice cream tin container.

One chore he could no longer do however is to go to the Dangwa station in Manila every August 21 to pick the best flowers from Baguio, take them home to Forbes and arrange them into wreaths. On the same date, two family members died: Don Pepe in 1976 and son-in-law former Sen. Benigno Aquino in 1983.

By the time the Cojuangcos and Aquinos arrived at the family mausoleum at the Manila Memorial Park, *Tatang* Fred's creations would have been in place for everyone to marvel at. But not this year.

Tatang Fred, like his masters, had not been exempt from the aches a aging body. He has had a heart bypass and recently, prostrate problem. Needless to say, the Cojuangcos foot his bills at the Makati Medical Center, including those for his monthly check-ups.

A few days after he was discharged from the hospital, *Tatang* Fred called up Don Pedro and Doña Sari. "I did not call you early enough because I had to muster enough courage. I called to say thank you," he told them.

"Don't mention it, Fred," Don Pedro replied. "You are a member of the family."

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

Poetry

Headphonaut

Wired like glass monster in the beige box
Crazy heart humming to the infinite beat

Pushing forward, stabbed in the brain, we retreat
Nervous pulse of the psychedelic headphone

Strings of life stammering into unknown zone
I alone, straining synapses and muscles, jerky boy in sweaty dancefloor

Four on the floor epileptic maze of ecstasy
Pedal to the metal fantasy slipping down the throat of night

Dali begins unfolding in cranial canvas
Ars poetico my disco satanico

Black funk crush the rhythm grip
The scream of steel on steel skateshoes on sticky floors

Sweat the chosen cologne, our holy commune
Pushing the tension to the millennium

Blur the lines of blue burn the joint's edge
Swallow Mr. Smiley, let the X enter the system

And exit, us, the banal universe, we shall resist them
Those who grab us by the neck and shove our noses in shit
Blast 'em all, alien love secrets we learn goddamit all we want is a hit
Scrape the lethal periphery of squalid normalcy

Barbarism of bass booming through skeletal frames
The devil a blast of treble hissing insidiously

Like blade's edge slicing open corneas
So the speakers yell Armageddon- all the bible's blackest stuff

Aerial mind flak, bass stomp like godzilla motherfucking killa
The turntable the box, and the DJ pandora

The world is always reborn in a new beat

Lourd Ernest de Veyra

Ang Mga Hindi Maaaring Mangyari

(Para kay Maningning Miclat)

Sana'y may tinig ang mga kulay na maririnig.
Sana'y iisa ang mga pananaw at pagtingin.
Sana'y laging may dumadaloy na batis sa ating isipan
upang walang humpay tayong lilikha sa buhay.
Sana'y gumagamot ng pagkainip
ang bawat tunog ng agos sa ating isipan
o ang kulay na nilikha ng ating mga hinaing.
Sana'y nakakabalik tayo kung gusto natin.
Sana'y tumatakas tayo ngunit hindi nang-iiwan.
Sana'y nakahahakbang tayo papalayo
nang hindi lumilikha
ng sugat.

Genaro R. Gojo Cruz

This Week

Art

***Pinta* 2.** Paintings by Barry Jose and Roger Sanchez. Until Sept. 21 at the Blind Tiger Bar and Gallery, 13 Visayas Ave., Quezon City. For inquiries, call 928-1158 or 928-1160.

Dante Castillo's 13th art show **Shades of Autumn** at Gallery 139, Glorietta IV, Ayala Center, Makati City. Featuring his watercolor rendition of spectacular fall color in many parts of the world, mostly the US and Canada. Exhibit runs until Sept. 12.

Popo San Pascual's Venetian series exhibit, ***Opere d'Arte a Venezia,*** can be viewed at Figaro at Hanston Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center through September. The exhibit is part of "The Great European Escape," a month-long festival of Figaro Coffee Company.

Basti Artadi of Wolfgang, which performs at Greenbelt, Sept. 14.

The Alcove, a pocket gallery dedicated to black-and-white photography, is open for public viewing from Tuesday to Saturday between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle, Makati City. Until Sept. 14.

Eulogy to the Filipino, an exhibit ranging from mixed media on canvas to free-standing sculptures in black granite by Roberto M.A. Robles, at Galleria Duemila and Gallerie Y, 4/L SM Megamall Building A, Mandaluyong. Until today.

Kalikasan, an exhibit of the recent works of Mar Bongalon featuring still life, flowers, country scenes and churches done in oil and pastel at the GSIS Museum of Art, GSIS Building, Financial Center, Pasay City. Until Sept. 15.

Music

Wolfgang Live! At Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City. On Sept. 14, Friday. Pre-album launch "Black Mantra" under Sony Music Philippines. Tickets available at TicketWorld-National Bookstore branches, Robinson's Department Store-Malate & Galleria, Tower Records-Makati & Alabang, Music Museum-Greenhills and Greenbelt ticket booth.

Concert at the Park featuring the **AUP Ambassadors Chorale Arts Society,** today, 5 p.m. at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium. Admission is free.

CSC Anniversary Concert at the Park. Different performing groups, representing various government agencies and offices pay tribute to the Civil Service Commission, with an hour of music and dances on Sept. 16, 5 p.m. at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium.

RJ and his Guitar-Live! Enjoy a special musical experience. Rock n' Roll every Friday night at 9 for the whole month of September at The Hive Radio Café, 3/F, Save-A-Lot Mall, 2884 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City. For inquiries, call Nella Galvez at 894-2358 or 840-2784.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

Ballet Manila will present the world premier of **Romeo and Juliet,** as choreographed by People's Artist of Russia Sergey Vikulov and set to the music of Sergey Prokofiev as rendered by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, on Sept. 28-30 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo. For inquiries call 812-8479 or 893-1819.

Crave, Sarah Kane's surrealistic and shocking images of woman's abuse, male violence, power and desire as interpreted by Anton Juan. Onstage at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, UP Diliman until September. For inquiries, call 924-8589 and 924-3224.

The Vagina Monologues, Filipino version, at the Music Museum. Until Sept. 15.

Macbeth. A classic play about obsession and ambition by Shakespeare translated in Filipino by Rolando Tinio. Regular performances will run until Sept. 15 at the CCP's Tanghalang Huseng Batute, Roxas Blvd., Pasay.

Food

Applications for the **Pinoy Nouvelle Cuisine Cookfest 2001** are now being accepted. Open to all Filipino chefs, the cookfest aims to encourage innovations on traditional Filipino food. Deadline for application is Oct. 10.For inquiries, contact the Cookfest secretariat at 897-5630 or the Daily Manila Shimbun Culture Center office at 4F Montivar Bldg., 34 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati.

Celebrate an exquisite fare of juicy and succulent US beef dishes with Holiday Inn Manila's **Beef Bonanza** promo at The Rotisserie from Sept. 10-22. Beef Bonanza treats your taste buds to a sumptuous showcase of creatively prepared, traditional beef recipe favorites as Ranger Steak, Tonkatsu Beef Medallions and Steak and Kidney pie. For inquiries call The Rotisserie at 526-1212 loc. 2305 or 2505.

Atbp

Bingo social at UP Bahay ng Alumni in Diliman, Quezon City, September 16, 2 p.m. Sponsored by High School Class 1977 of St. Theresa's College in Quezon City for the benefit of the Sambayan Educational Foundation, Inc. and HE Cares Foundation for streetchildren. For details, call 635-2154 and 635-6522 or the St. Theresa's Alumnae Association Office at 740-0115.

Fashion Revolution, ongoing at the stores of the Linea Italia Group and the Marconi Fashion Group. The revolution offers the ultimate price deal—up to 80 percent discount on Italy's finest fashion collections.

International Coastal Clean-up Day. Do the earth a favor; help save the environment. Join the Aplaya Dive Station on Sept. 15, for the International Coastal Clean-up Day. For inquiries, please call (0917) 526-0993 or email aplaya@edsamail.com.

Discover which values, paradigms, attitudes and behavior create your success and go on a journey of self-discovery through the **Foundations of Leadership Excellence** seminar on Oct. 6-7 at the Yuchengco Institute of Advanced Studies, RCBC Plaza Tower 2. For inquiries call Gemma or Liza at 897-5219 or 897-7856.

Go Interactive with Gary Granada! Grab the chance to ask him about his songwriting inspiration on Sept. 14 at 4 p.m. at the Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle, Makati City.

Tell Me More! Storytelling for children featuring Melody Remorca on Sept. 15, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle, Makati City. Admission fee is P80.

Repertory Philippines will hold **auditions** for its upcoming musical "The Secret Garden" today, Sunday, 5 p.m. at the William J. Shaw Theater, Level 5, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, EDSA cor. Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong. All professional and amateur theater performers aged 9 and up are invited. They must bring their resume with a recent 2 x 2 photo, and sing a song from the musical. Piano scores are available at the Rep office. For details, call 633-4821 to 25, or email rep@broline.com

Hands-on introductory course on **Polyester Resin** (figurine making, fiberglass, stained glass, lamination, encapsulation and synthetic granite) from Sept. 19-22. For inquiries call Polymer Products at 671-9837.

Submissions in poetry, short fiction, and drama are being accepted for the **Ateneo National Writers Workshop,** which will be held from October 15 to 20. Applicants should submit portfolios containing any of the following: 8 poems, 5 stories, or 3 one-act plays in Filipino or English—along with a clean diskette containing the portfolio in word document (doc) or rich-text format (rtf). Each set must bear a title page with the author's pseudonym and a table of contents. The submission should include a sealed envelope containing the pseudonym, the author's real name, address, contact numbers, and a one-page biodata with an 1x1 ID picture. Deadline for submission of entries is on September 10, 2001.Address entries to: The Director, Ateneo National Writers Workshop, c/o Filipino Department, Dela Costa Building, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. For inquiries call 426-6001 local 5320 and look for Jing Panganiban or Mel Estrelles, or email filipino@admu.edu.ph.

The Blue Eagles Gymnastics Academy offers **gymnastics classes** for boys and girls at the Ateneo de Manila High School covered court, Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. For inquiries, call 411-9054 or 920-8657.

Published by Bookmark, Inc., **The Hills of Sampaloc: The Opening Actions of the Philippine-American War, February 4-5, 1899,** by Dr. Benito Legarda, Jr., is now available at the Filipino Bookstore and Bookmark.

Basic photography course, a successive four-Sunday workshop starting Sept. 23 at the Yslas Restaurante, Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lecturers include Vic Sison, Ibarra Deri, Ador Pamintuan and Tony Raval. Organized by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation. For details, call 843-5341 or 813-7420, or email ppfpwm@pacific.net.ph

The 8th **Annual National Antiques, Jewelries, Costumes, Oriental and Tribal Arts, Furniture and Furnishing Show** is ongoing until Sept. 16 at the Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan, Metro Manila.

VISCOMM (Visual Communications) is now accepting students for its September art and creative writing workshop. For inquiries call Eleanor at 740-7221 or (0917) 909-2238.

X-manila

***Arkitekturang* Filipino,** an exhibit of Philippine architectural legacies, monuments and heritage sites at the Museo ning Angeles, Angeles City until Sept. 10.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.

Phivolcs asked: What's real score on Pinatubo?

STORY ON PAGE A2

Pinatubo or 'Pinatulo'?

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BOTOLAN, Zambales—Mt. Pinatubo or "Mt. Pinatulo?" The Aetas are not laughing.

To Pedro Cariño, an Aeta tribal chief in Zambales, the volcano must retain its name. It

PINATUBO/ A19

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2001 ★★ 76 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 274 ₱15

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Lacson flies to America, creates stir

Senator 'on vacation,' says his close friend

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO, TJ BURGONIO AND VOLT CONTRERAS

IN AN unheralded departure, an embattled Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson quietly left Manila yesterday on a flight to Hong Kong, reportedly en route to California.

A staff member said he was expected to be back before the Senate resumes session on Sept. 23 at the end of a two-week recess.

A close friend of Lacson's, who asked not to be named, said the senator was simply on a "vacation" and should be back on either Sept. 22 or 23.

Lacson departed around 11 a.m. on Cathay Pacific Flight 906, two days after his friend, businessman and suspected drug lord Kim Wong, left for the former British colony, officials at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport said.

The senator was traveling with his executive assistant, businessman Jerome Tang, franchise owner of a Jollibee branch at the international airport. Tang is reportedly a brother of Jimmy Tang, president of a Chinese-Filipino federation here, the staff member said.

Both Lacson and Jerome Tang checked in at 9:45 a.m., according to airport sources, who added that the two have been known to travel abroad together on past occasions.

GMA-7 reporter Maria Judea "Maki" Pulido and cameraman Diosdado Morales "volunteered to cover" the former Philippine National Police chief's trip abroad, and Lacson allowed them to join his party, the senator's friend said.

In a separate interview, the staff member said his boss' final destination was Los Angeles, where wife Alice de Peria Lacson is known to own two freighting firms.

Alice's name was not on the passenger manifest of the flight.

The senator's younger brother Hernani has a house in San Diego, California, but the friend was not sure whether the senator would be staying with his brother.

Lacson's chief of staff, lawyer Evaristo Gana, left Manila ahead

PING/ A18

Priest asks: Can't stand the heat?

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA, PHILIP C. TUBEZA AND CARLITO PABLO

"PERHAPS he couldn't stand the heat," so he left the country, Jesuit priest Carmelo Caluag II yesterday said of Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Caluag is the convenor of Katotohanan, a network of civil society organizations seeking to rid the country of narco-politics.

Lawyer Leonard de Vera of the Equal Justice for All Movement said Lacson's travel was highly "intriguing" as it came amid the Senate investigation of his alleged involvement in high crimes.

"The departure has a double-bladed purpose," De Vera told the INQUIRER. "On one hand, perhaps he wants to show the public that he has nothing to hide. On the other hand, it would be a good cover in case he's planning to do something there about his controversial cases."

The Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) is investigating Lacson's alleged dollar accounts worth $211 million supposedly laundered in banks in the United States, Hong Kong and Canada.

De Vera said Lacson, who concurrently headed the Philippine National Police and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, could do "a lot of things" when he was close to the areas where he allegedly kept his reported hidden wealth.

Quoting sources, Caluag said Lacson would connive with some members of the international police to discredit his accusers.

The accusers the Jesuit priest was referring to were former civilian agents Mary "Rosebud" Ong and Angelo "Ador" Mawanay, who have accused Lacson of drug trafficking, money laundering, kidnapping, smuggling and summary execution.

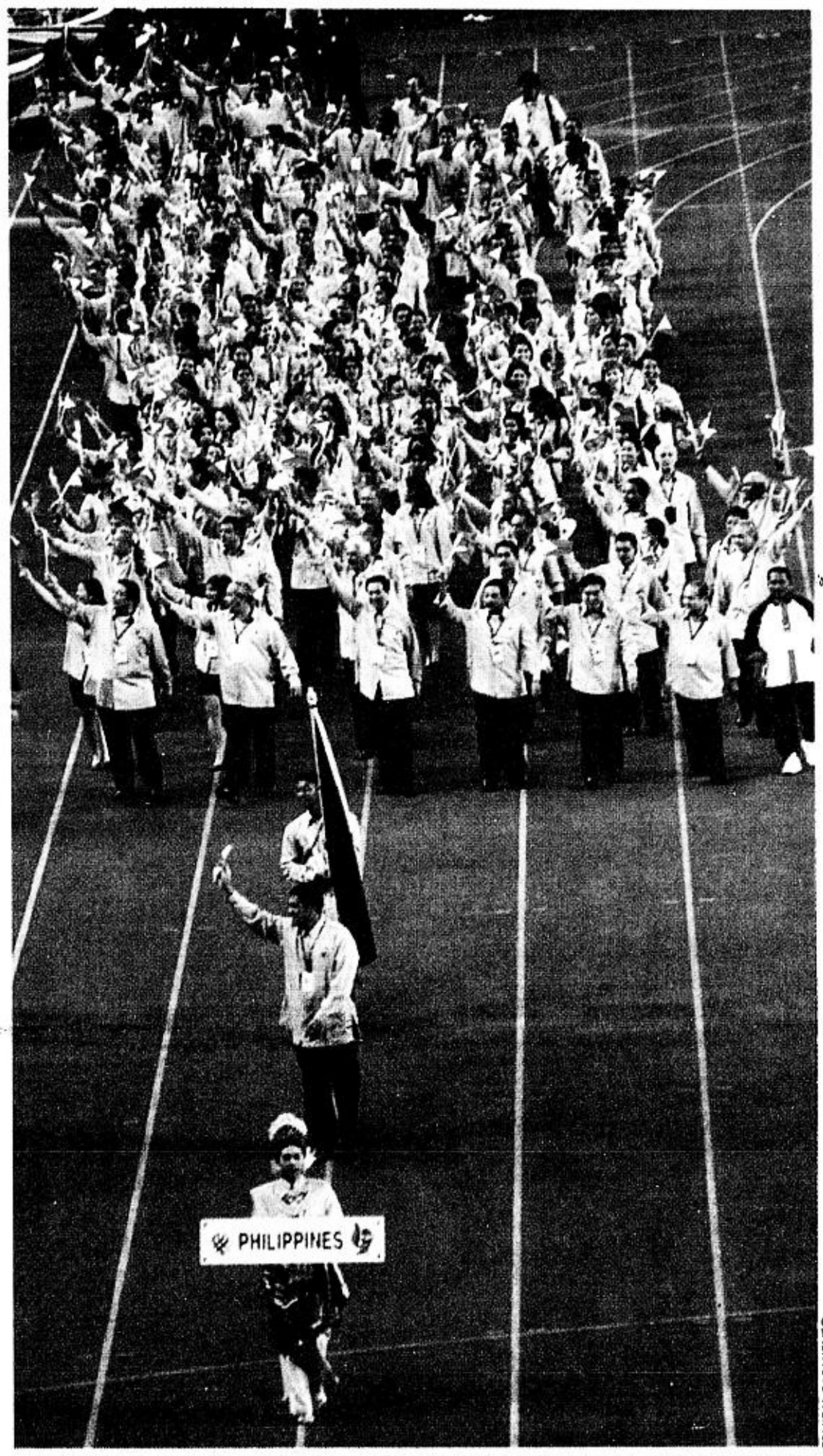
Officials at the National Bureau of Investigation speculated that Lacson went to Hong Kong to get a statement of support from Ron Abbott, a senior detective of the Hong Kong Police Narcotics Bureau.

Ong had earlier alleged that Abbott tried to dissuade her from implicating Lacson and Lacson's former aide, Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, in organized crime.

Ong said Abbott was furnishing Lacson and Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop with "confidential" records of the Hong Kong Police aimed at destroying her credibility.

Dante Jimenez, head of the anti-crime group

PRIEST/ A18



ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

MEMBERS of the Philippine contingent, including First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, wave the Philippine flag during the opening ceremony of the 21st Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday.

Allegations against Ping concern national security

BY AMANDO DORONILA

ANALYSIS

TWO institutions—the Armed Forces and the Supreme Court—survived the fall of the Estrada administration on Jan. 20, 2001 with enhanced credibility and prestige.

Most heavily damaged were the presidency and the legislature, especially the Senate. The bureaucracy, historically dominated or undermined by the President, went down with the crash of the Estrada administration.

In contrast to the Armed Forces, the Philippine National Police—then led by PNP Director General Panfilo Lacson—emerged badly damaged from that widespread breakdown of Philippine institutions.

This backdrop throws into sharp relief the continuing aftershocks of the crisis that has flowed from the overthrow of Joseph Estrada. It is important to consider the fact that the Senate is suffering from a crisis of confidence that arose from its controversial role in Estrada's impeachment trial.

The impeachment legacy is preventing the Senate from rehabilitating itself, and the presence of Senator Lacson in its midst has generated further tremors cracking the

ALLEGATIONS/ A18

Karate athletes bag first 2 golds for RP in SEAG

BY DENNIS U. EROA

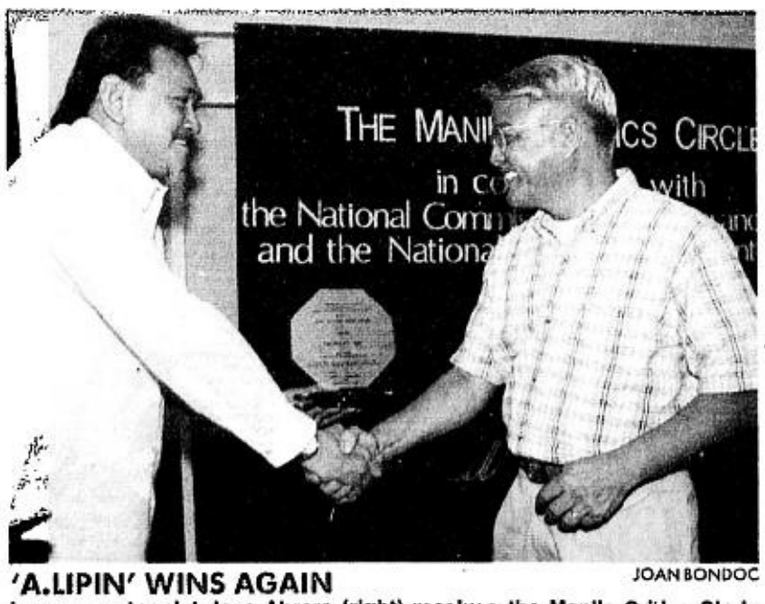
KUALA LUMPUR—A last-minute entry and a repeater in karatedo became instant stars yesterday by winning the Philippines' first two gold medals in the 21st Southeast Asian Games here.

Jose Mari Pabillore, 22, of Cagayan de Oro City and one of the last athletes to qualify, came from behind to top the +80 kg men's individual kumite at the expense of former muay thai champion Dam Sri Jam at the Multi-purpose hall inside the National Stadium here.

Gretchen Malalad, who went home empty-handed in the 1999 Brunei SEAG, followed suit by beating Indonesian Meity Johana Kaseger, 9-2, for the +60 women's individual kumite gold.

"I promised myself to win here after failing in Brunei," said the 5-foot-7 Malalad, who never fails to catch attention with her good looks and confidence. The 21-year-old Malalad won the

KARATE/ A19



JOAN BONDOC

'A.LIPIN' WINS AGAIN
INQUIRER cartoonist Jess Abrera (right) receives the Manila Critics Circle National Book Award from Alfred Yuson anew, this time for his book "The Best of A. Lipin: Cartoon Strips, 1985-2000," in ceremonies on Saturday night. *(Story on Page A20.)*

AFP probers say Villanueva contributed to Lamitan fiasco

BY CARLITO PABLO

THE INTERFERENCE of Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Armed Forces chief of staff, in operational matters contributed to the military's debacle in Lamitan, Basilan.

This assessment was made by a six-man fact-finding body led by Brig. Gen. Reynaldo Rivera, Army inspector general, regarding the disastrous military operations on June 2-3 that saw Abu Sayyaf bandits and their hostages slip out of the Jose Torres Memorial Hospital in Lamitan.

The team, which included Maj. Ramiro Rey and Captains Expedito Bina, Ernesto Cruz, Arthur Tabas and Rigor Ronquillo, submitted its nine-page special report dated July 3 to Army chief Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos.

It noted that Villanueva had reversed orders to move military reinforcements to Lamitan, which could have finished off the main group of the Abu Sayyaf led by Khadaffy Janjalani and Abu Sabaya.

"Observance of the proper chain of command in issuing orders was (either) intentionally or unintentionally violated," the team said.

The bandits entered the Jose Torres Memorial Hospital and the St. Peter's Church at midnight of June 2, or five days after they raided the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan and seized 20 hostages, including American missionary couple Martin and Graham Burnham and Guillermo Sobero.

A battle erupted after armed civilian volunteers accosted the bandits. The incident was immediately reported to Army authorities and a few hours later, troops from the 18th Infantry Battalion came and engaged the bandits.

At about 2:30 a.m. of June 2, Scout Rangers under Capt. Ruben Guinolbay were ambushed in front of the church.

AFP/ A20

Ranger up for Medal of Valor

BY CARLITO PABLO

CAPT. Ruben Guinolbay, the officer who allegedly told Basilan priest Cirilo Nacorda that his unit had been used as "bait" for the Abu Sayyaf, has been recommended for a Medal of Valor, the country's highest military honor.

Guinolbay became the country's best-known Scout Ranger after his harrowing testimony at a congressional hearing last month.

He had told members of the House defense committee that he saw three of his men die on June 2

RANGER/ A20

Second FRONT PAGE

Phivolcs asked: What's real score?

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BOTOLAN, Zambales—What's the real score on the draining of Mt. Pinatubo's crater lake and the danger this poses to local residents?

Britain-based humanitarian and development agency Oxfam has urged officials of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology to come clean about what is happening with Mt. Pinatubo's crater-lake.

Oxfam Philippine representative Lan Mercado aired the appeal on Saturday after local government officials ordered residents at the foot of the volcano to return home despite an earlier warning by Phivolcs to stay in the evacuation centers.

PUNONGBAYAN

The residents, she said, left the centers without Phivolcs warning them about the risks their villages faced after the volcano's crater lake was drained Thursday.

Mercado said the residents might get a "false sense of security" or become complacent amid the euphoria arising from the government's pronouncement that the breaching operation was a "success."

"We expect transparency on scientific information so the people in high-risk villages and the local government could prepare for any eventuality," Mercado told the INQUIRER.

Oxfam in July called attention to the possibility of an overflow or breakout of some 200 million cubic meters of water that had filled the crater-lake since the volcano's eruption in June 1991.

Government officials at this stage appeared to be "much preoccupied with saving face," rather than with issuing the correct information to the residents, Mercado said.

"It's not what disaster preparedness is all about. It is not empowering the people," she added.

On Thursday, after lake water was released to ease the threat of a crater wall collapse, Phivolcs chief Raymundo Punongbayan and Assistant Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez began to bicker over design flaws in the canal that caused water to flow sluggishly from the volcano.

Mercado urged Phivolcs to tell the residents the "exact details" of what to expect after the breaching.

At a meeting of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council last Thursday, Punongbayan said they "considered possible scenarios and the (biggest threat) would be if there was a big flow of water and it topped the dike system."

He said in this case in harm's way would be Barangays Carael, Paudpod, San Juan, Paco, Porac, Bangan, Beneg, Capayawan, Tampo, San Miguel, Parel and Batonlapoc, in this town.

"As these barangays are considered at high risk, their residents are advised to remain in the evacuation centers," Punongbayan said.

Yet by Friday, the Zambales provincial and municipal governments had completely decamped the evacuation centers, sending Army trucks to bring the residents to their villages.

While Phivolcs also warned of the danger of lahar flows to Barangays Carael, Paudpod, Bangan, Paco, Porac and San Juan, no effort was made to stop the villagers from returning home.

Phivolcs resident Pinatubo volcanologist Jaime Sincioco told the INQUIRER the residents in those high-risk areas should make plans to immediately and systematically leave their homes in case lahar warnings are issued.

Botolan Mayor Roger Yap said the decision to decamp the evacuation centers was made due to the local government's "lack of resources."

Up to now, national agencies like the Department of Public Works and Highways and the National Disaster Coordinating Council have not released the P2.3 million for the construction of the finished canal.

NDCC executive officer Melchor Rosales continued to insist the money should come from the DPWH. The DPWH maintains the funds should come from the NDCC.

The buck-passing has left the cash-strapped municipal government on its own to deal with an emergency situation where some 40,000 residents were evacuated.

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'DIRTY MONEY'

Malacañang confident Congress will pass bill

BY DONNA S. CUETO

MALACAÑANG said yesterday it was "still very confident" Congress would be able to pass an anti-money laundering bill by the Sept. 30 deadline imposed by an international finance agency.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said President Macapagal-Arroyo was still hopeful Congress would pass the bill when sessions resume the last week of September.

At the same time, Tiglao chided the Financial Action Task Force for threatening sanctions this early against the government if the bill was not passed in time.

"I think it is unfair of the FATF to be speaking of sanctions at this time when the deadline they set is at the end of September," Tiglao told reporters yesterday.

He said leaders of Congress had assured the President they would continue to hold hearings on the matter even during the two-week recess that will end on Sept. 23.

He said Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura and an official from the Department of Justice will be sent by the government to explain to the FATF the reasons for the delay in the passage of the bill.

Tiglao said the three would explain that the main reason for the delay was the change in government in January, from Joseph Estrada to Ms Macapagal.

"Because of the change in government, there were many urgent tasks the new administration had to attend to," he said.

The FATF had included the Philippines in a list of countries considered "most uncooperative" in the issue of money laundering.

The FATF has allegedly already delayed the remittance of cash by overseas Filipino workers and for export transactions in response to the money-laundering problem.

Gloria asks victims' kin to report kidnaps

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday urged families of kidnapping victims to immediately report the crime to help authorities stamp it out.

The government has been fighting a tough battle against kidnapping syndicates that mostly prey on foreign businessmen and rich Chinese-Filipino traders.

Police have said the relatives of many of the victims often pay huge ransoms after they are threatened with harm, instead of seeking official government help.

Ms Macapagal said kidnapping gangs "have been emboldened" because many victims often prefer to stay quiet about their ordeal.

"They have this impression that the Chinese don't want to report to the authorities, that they want to keep things quiet so they figure that their best bet for getting ransom instead of reporting it to the police is by kidnapping Chinese," Ms Macapagal said in a statement.

"Indeed, the records show that if the victims' families call the police, the solution comes more efficiently than if you would try to negotiate for ransom," the President said.

The problem was highlighted last month when a group of Chinese engineers in Mindanao was kidnapped while delivering ransom money for a colleague who was abducted by Muslim gunmen in June.

Two of them were shot and killed by the kidnappers as they tried to escape during a military rescue, while a third escaped. The gunmen still hold two captives.

Elsewhere in the south, the Muslim rebel group Abu Sayyaf is holding hostage an American Christian missionary couple and 16 Filipinos.

Ms Macapagal repeated yesterday her government has launched a war against all criminal syndicates, from kidnap gangs to drug traffickers. *AFP*

ERRATUM

The Home Plus retail ad that appeared in the September 1, 2001 issue of PDI contains a Single Bed with Pull-out item (BL480G), wherein the actual spec should have been read as "with 2-Foam" and not "with 3-Foam" as stated. We apologize for the error.

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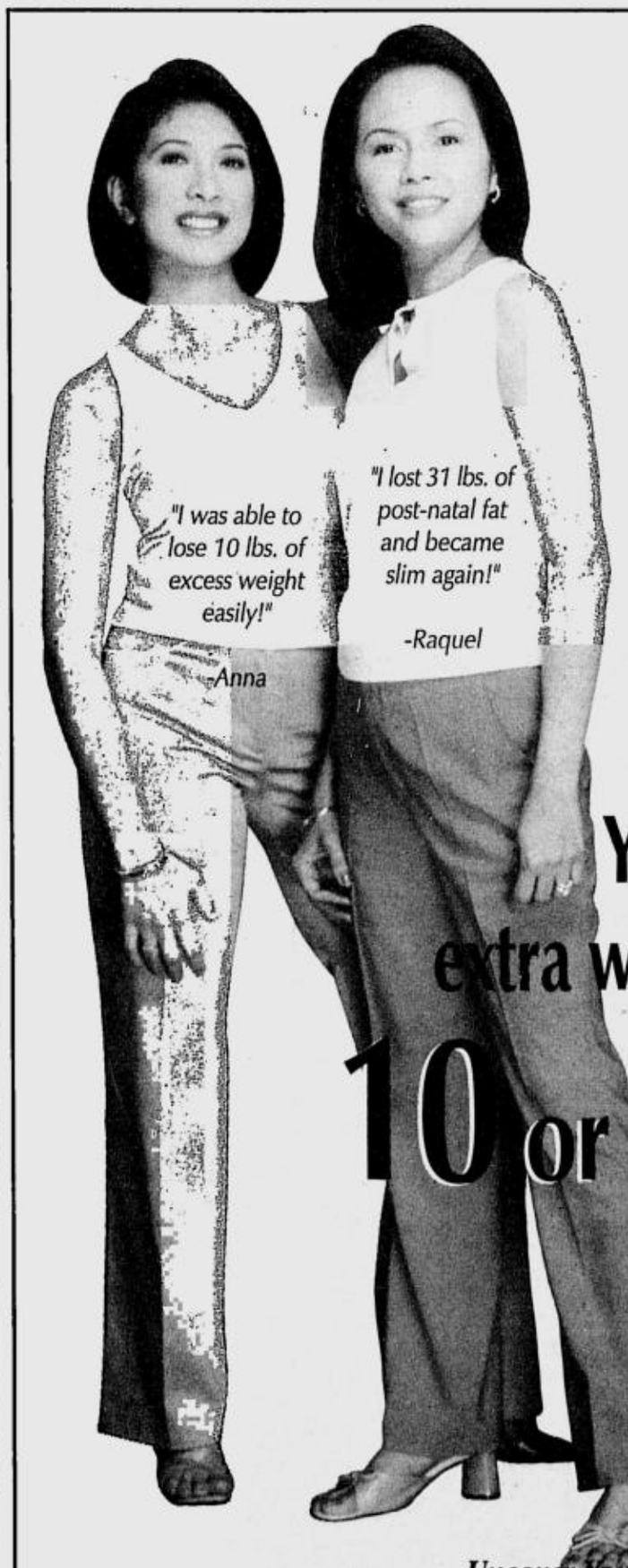

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PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's upcoming trip to Japan offers her a chance to show the developed world that the Philippines is ready to be taken seriously again, analysts say.

The will have a lot of baggage to overcome, starting with a warning from Japanese businessmen of growing disenchantment with the Philippines and the two-and-a-half years of misgovernance under her ousted predecessor.

Ms Macapagal's visit to Japan from Sept. 12 to 15 will be her first trip as president to a developed country and the first overseas visit outside of the traditional tour of new leaders of fellow Southeast Asian nations.

Among the proposals to be raised in Tokyo is possible Japanese financing for a highway linking Clark and Subic Bay—two former US bases-turned-freeports Central Luzon , Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas said.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said that no new loan packages would be signed but that economic ties would be revived.

"What we are seeing is the reaffirmation of the commitment of the Japanese government to continue supporting the development objectives of the country," Canlas said.

Ms Macapagal will also tell the Japanese of the Philippines' improved record of utilizing its official aid. In the past, millions of dollars in bilateral assistance went unused due to red tape and lack of counterpart funds.

Wilfredo Villacorta, president of the Yuchengco Center for East Asia, a diplomatic think tank, said Ms Macapagal's decision to visit Japan first among developed countries showed the significance of that country to the Philippines.

Japan is the single biggest source of bilateral aid to the Philippines and is its second largest trading partner and foreign investor but the Philippines has lagged behind its neighbors in attracting Japanese capital.

Last month, the local Japanese Chamber of Commerce, in a meeting with Cabinet members, warned that the Philippines was losing its competitive edge to China, Vietnam and Thailand.

The chamber cited the high cost of production—particularly labor costs—and poor peace and order conditions in this country where several foreigners have been kidnapped by ransom-seeking gangs.

Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said she would argue that while the Philippines cannot offer cheaper labor than China, it can offer better quality with more educated, adaptable workers.

"We are trying to find our niche as highly skilled workers with English proficiency," he said in a meeting with foreign correspondents.

Villacorta said that Arroyo, an economist, should also show Japan the contrast between her administration and that of her predecessor, Joseph Estrada, a former movie star known for drinking, gambling, womanizing and poor governance.

"She should highlight this during her visit: stability is coming back to the country and that she means business."

It is crucial that the president projects a good image, he said.

"The Japanese are very leader-oriented, authority conscious. They think of who is on top. It's very important for them to know that the one in charge of our country is a capable person," Villacorta said.

Villacorta believes "she'll do a good job in impressing the Japanese."

"The Japanese, in general, admire leaders who are task-oriented, hard-working, intelligent and have a direction in their economic policies." *AFP*

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Malaysia, RP form joint body on tourism

MALAYSIA and the Philippines have agreed to work out modes of cooperation to promote and enhance tourism through a joint action committee, a press statement from the Department of Tourism said yesterday.

The joint committee was announced by Malaysian Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir who chaired a meeting with the Philippine delegation headed by Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon in Kuala Lumpur.

Kadir said the committee shall be called the Matta-Tricon Joint Action Committee, with Matta representing the Malaysian government and private sector, and Tricon representing the Philippine government and travel trade sector.

Both panels will have seven members each to be led by the tourism secretaries of each country.

The committee will meet monthly for the first four months, alternately holding the meetings in the two countries. The first meeting is set in Kuala Lumpur, then Manila followed by another meeting in Kuala Lumpur and again in Manila.

Kadir told the media that the joint action committee "will be a good way for us to promote each other and by the end of four months, we will know what is needed to be done."

Gordon, for his part, said, "I hope that this joint cooperation will not only boost tourism in both countries but will also strengthen the ties between the two governments."

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For Employers in the Private and Government Sectors

PLEASE be advised that effective January 1, 2002, a new contribution schedule will be implemented in the payment and collection of contributions for all the employed members of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP).

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4	P 4,500.00 to P 4,999.99	4,500.00	112.50	56.25	56.25	Effective January 1, 2001
5	P 5,000.00 to P 5,499.99	5,000.00	125.00	62.50	62.50	
6	P 5,500.00 to P 5,999.99	5,500.00	137.50	68.75	68.75	
7	P 6,000.00 to P 6,499.99	6,000.00	150.00	75.00	75.00	
8	P 6,500.00 to P 6,999.99	6,500.00	162.50	81.25	81.25	
9	P 7,000.00 to P 7,499.99	7,000.00	175.00	87.50	87.50	
10	P 7,500.00 to P 7,999.99	7,500.00	187.50	93.75	93.75	
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12	P 8,500.00 to P 8,999.99	8,500.00	212.50	106.25	106.25	Effective January 1, 2002
13	P 9,000.00 to P 9,499.99	9,000.00	225.00	112.50	112.50	
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15	P10,000.00 and up	10,000.00	250.00	125.00	125.00	

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Palace on Ping: 'Ridiculous'

BY D. CUETO

MALACANANG yesterday described as "ridiculous and irresponsible" the claim of Sen. Panfilo Lacson that it is planning a smear campaign against Education Secretary Raul Roco to eliminate possible rivals of the President in the 2004 elections.

"There's no campaign on the part of Malacañang to target any politician because of the 2004 elections," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday.

"The entire focus of the President and Malacañang is how to improve the economy and how to combat the criminal groups," he explained.

The Palace accused Lacson of "trying to muddle the issue" when he brought up the alleged information that the administration's guns were being trained next on Roco.

Lacson, in a press conference Friday night, said that the Macapagal administration would launch a smear campaign against Roco, once it got "tired" of him.

"I don't know how accurate that is but we received information that after they get tired of me, the next target will be Secretary Roco," he said in Taglish.

He did not reveal the source of this information.

Yesterday, when asked to react to this statement, Tiglao said: "It's a very ridiculous and irresponsible statement. Lacson is being investigated because of allegations made even before he was senator."

He claimed that there was no comparison between Roco and Lacson as far as integrity was concerned.

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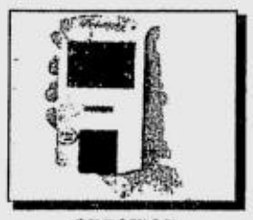
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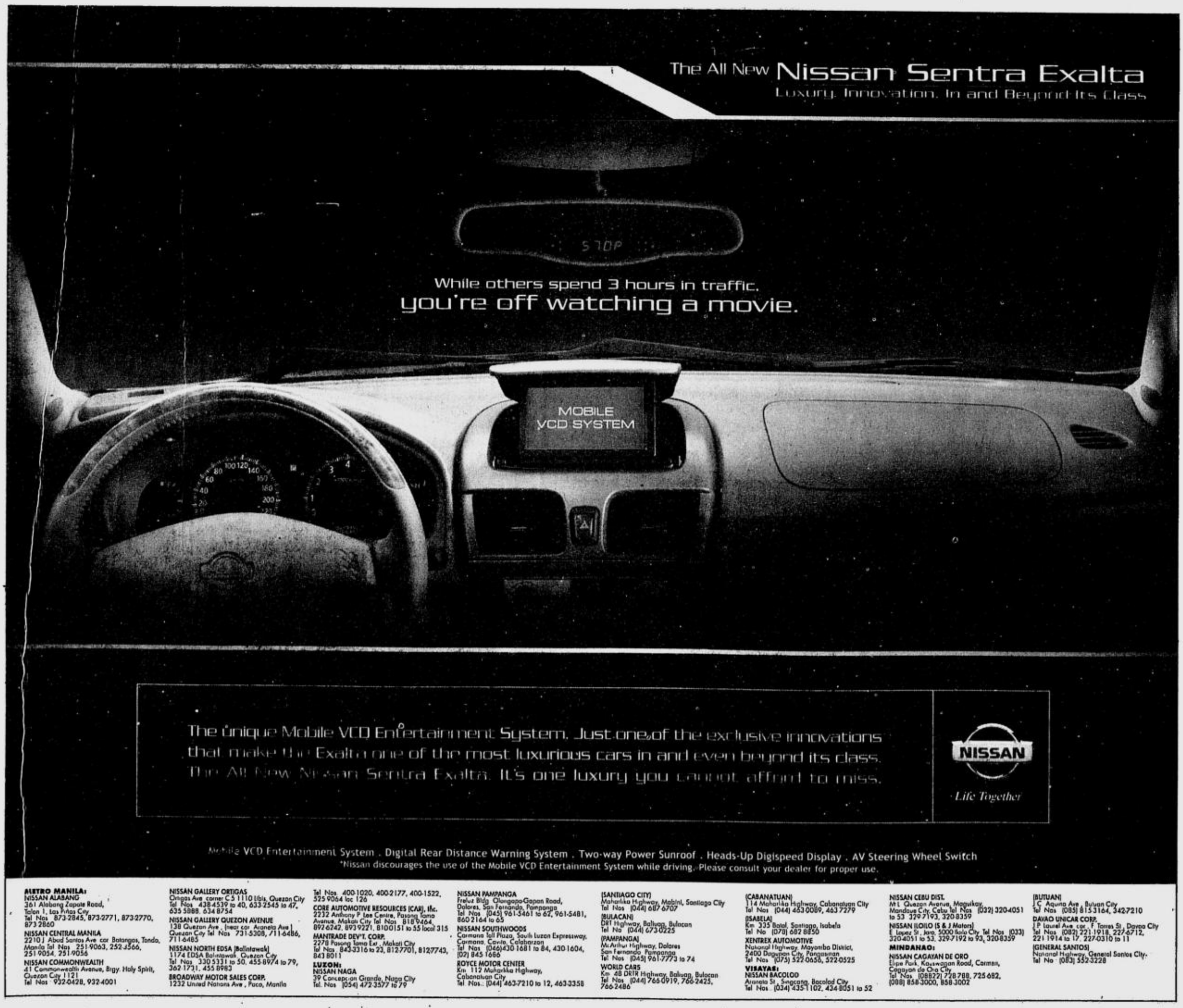

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Sabaya's captured brod transferred to naval camp

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Secured by Marine soldiers, an arrested brother of Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya was transferred yesterday to a naval base in this port city, officials said.

Muhayser Tilao, 22, and three other Abu Sayyaf gang member were captured in a raid by troops on their hideout on Jolo island on Friday. A fourth rebel was killed in the fighting that followed.

Tilao and one of those arrested with him were transferred to the naval base here to prevent the Abu Sayyaf from staging a daring raid to spring him out of jail, said Marine commander Brig. Gen. Orlando Buenaventura.

The others were left to the custody of police in Jolo.

"The duo have been undergoing tight tactical interrogation before (we release) them to the police for proper filing of charges," Buenaventura said.

Security has been tightened around the naval facility to "avert a possible plan by the Abu Sayyaf" to rescue Tilao.

Tilao, he said, has admitted to being an Abu Sayyaf member, but claimed to be only "followers" and not a high-ranking rebel leader.

The Abu Sayyaf still hold two Americans and 16 Filipinos on neighboring Basilan island, where they are on the run from a huge military operation. *AFP*

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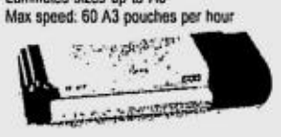

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Ador takes his fight vs senators to high court

BY C. AVENDAÑO

SECRET agent-turned-controversial witness Angelo "Ador" Mawanay is taking his complaint against the senators who ordered his detention last month to the Supreme Court, after the Ombudsman dismissed the case last week for lack of jurisdiction.

Argee Guevarra, Mawanay's lawyer, questioned Ombudsman Aniano Desierto's decision dismissing Mawanay's complaint against the senators, saying Desierto clearly had jurisdiction over the case as provided for in the Ombudsman Act of 1997.

Guevarra said Desierto appeared to be "acting as defense counsel for the high and mighty, instead of for the small and powerless."

Mawanay was ordered detained by the senators at the Senate building last month after he failed to substantiate an allegation he had made against Sen. Loren Legarda during Senate hearings looking into the alleged criminal activities of Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Mawanay claimed to be a former civilian agent in the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force that Lacson headed when he was national police chief.

He has linked Lacson to money laundering, smuggling, kidnap-for-ransom and murder cases.

Mawanay, testifying at the Senate inquiry, claimed he had delivered smuggled Nokia cellular phones to Legarda from Lacson.

He was released from detention after three days after the Senate told him to come back with the evidence against Legarda.

Although Mawanay has not been called to testify in the recent Senate hearings, Guevarra said he went anyway to show his support for witness Mary "Rosebud" Ong and to "face off" with Lacson.

Guevarra said Mawanay will be back at the Senate when Congress resumes sessions on Sept. 24 after a two-week break.

AN OPEN LETTER

The appointment of Judge Amelita G. Tolentino to the Court of Appeals may be the best argument yet for the abolition of the Judicial & Bar Council (JBC) . **or at least, for more transparency in its proceedings, specially at the collegiate appellate level.**

If the matter cannot be undone, there is small comfort in that lawyers in her sala would no longer have to appear before one whose capability to handle a trial remains suspect even up to now. Atty. Tolentino applied for a seat in the Court of Appeals years ago. Instead, she was named to the Regional Trial Court in Metro Manila despite her obvious lack of trial experience which made it difficult for practitioners appearing in her sala. She should first have been assigned elsewhere where she could been properly brought up to speed, as it were.

Then, from the Regional Trial Court, again, unable to moderate her ambitions, evincing conduct unbecoming, she applied for a seat in the Supreme Court, directly, in her letter dated November 15, 2000, addressed to the JBC! Again this appalling lack of delicadeza and proportion makes it so unfair for her to go ahead of a pack of many much more veteran qualified applicants. **While the press blurbs on her appointment said she passed the 1968 bar exams with a rating of 91.5%, she in fact got 77.5%. This is most certainly not a disqualification but who was responsible, or had the motive, for the misrepresentation? Indeed, in the decade she passed (1961-70), no one got that grade! Has she corrected the egregious embroidery of her published record?**

Representative Allan Peter Cayetano now sits in the JBC where his father, Senator Renato L. Cayetano used to. One gets the impression that the son's first act or misdeed, or his father's last, was to reward Judge Tolentino for handling the Vizconde case which then Senate candidate Cayetano had milked for its publicity value in his run for a Senate seat. What about the perceptual problem of delicadeza?

The Judge is a townswoman of the President, who may not have been told of how slowly cases move in her clogged Parañaque docket. The horror stories from those who appeared before her are not few and far between.

There must be a better way of vetting aspirants to the bench if we are to strengthen the faith of our people in our administration of justice. There should be more transparency, with public hearings, so the track record of an aspirant to the collegiate level courts may be scrutinized. We should reward those public servants who have quietly toiled for decades on the bench and elsewhere, with unquestioned integrity and competence, perhaps too proud to approach self-seeking padrinos with their own narrow agendas.

Irascible, ill-tempered Judge Tolentino's appointment put a premium on judicial incompetence and the padrino system. May God save our courts from megalomaniac misfits!

MARIO E. ONGKIKO

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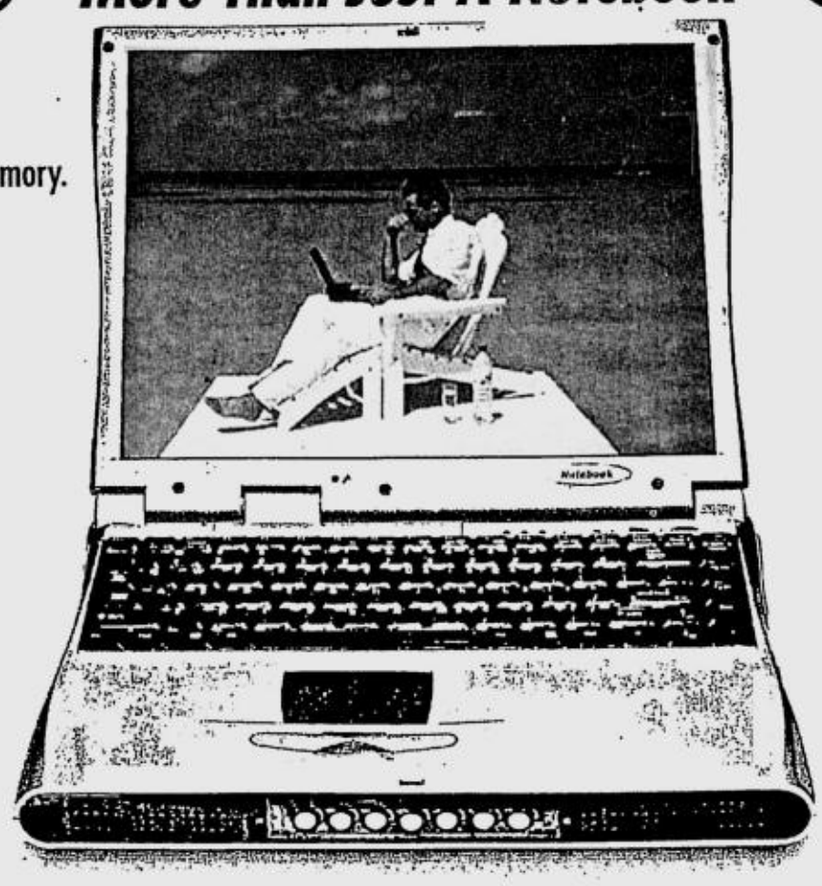

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Not Nacorda

ALLOW us to belabor the obvious. Fr. Cirilo Nacorda is not the enemy.

His allegations that some military officers and their men were in collusion with the Abu Sayyaf have expectedly roiled the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The witnesses he presented before both the House and Senate committees investigating the allegations have provided proof of the alleged collusion—testimony made even more convincing by the ordinariness of those who testified.

EDITORIAL

It is these witnesses' testimony, at the executive session of the House committee conducting hearings in Basilan two weekends ago and at the Senate hearing last week, that has turned legislators' heads. Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the Senate panel, told reporters last Friday that he was inclined to believe Nacorda's witnesses—and to recommend a court martial for the AFP men involved.

Reading the official statements of the AFP, however, one would be hard-pressed to name other people who allege collusion. The AFP has framed the issue in simple terms: it is Nacorda's word against that of the military.

The standard story line has been repeated by the major players on the AFP side: at one time or another, the defense secretary, the former commander of the anti-Abu Sayyaf task force and various AFP spokespersons have all phrased the problem as a priest-vs-soldier contest. And who will the public side with, they ask plaintively, but priests-who-cannot-tell-a-lie?

These spokespersons for the armed services miss the point, however. Take out Nacorda, and the case for collusion remains. Nacorda has simply played the role of a broker and a barker. He has sourced witnesses to testify under oath, and he has called attention to the matter.

Even without his testimony, those of the others can stand on their own. More to the point, the case continues to be worth pursuing even without the participation of his witnesses. The record confirms that the government's security forces had a hand in the making of the Abu Sayyaf, at least in its early years. The record suggests that the Abu Sayyaf bought arms from the military over the years; as the book "Into the Mountain" reveals, this arms-buying even had a special name: "retrieval operations." The record also shows that in previous kidnappings the bandits were able to escape police and military dragnets because guards stationed at security outposts merely waved them through.

The official focus on Nacorda, therefore, is nothing less than misguided. And the President's acknowledgement last Friday that the investigations had indeed demoralized the military is nothing short of misleading. She may have won points for candor, but not for leadership.

What is truly demoralizing to the loyal and brave soldiers of the Republic are acts of tragic negligence by the military high command. The decision, for instance, to proceed with the deployment of the Scout Rangers on June 2, without advising them that Lamitan was already under siege by the Abu Sayyaf, directly led Captain Ruben Guinolbay and his men into an ambush. Three Scout Rangers died instantly, felled by sniper fire from a church they did not even know had fallen into hostile hands.

We do not doubt that, as a whole, the defense establishment remains squarely on the side of the people and our sometimes exasperating experiment in representative democracy. But the armed services must return the favor. They must also learn not to doubt the public's capacity—and that of the President—to distinguish between the individual and the institution, between the few rotten eggs and the basket itself.

If, as the evidence from Nacorda's witnesses suggests, a few officers and men have soiled the military's good name, the most effective way for the AFP to wash off the stain is by coming clean about who did the dirty deed. The nation realizes that its soldiers—themselves ordinary men and women—continue to make a terrible sacrifice in their hot pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf. But from the looks of it, the reason they are still there in the jungle is that some of their colleagues sold them down the river.

₱5-billion scam in the making at customs

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I READ in the newspapers a press release from the Department of Finance that "it has set aside P5.4 billion" to pay SGS, the European company formerly inspecting import shipments to the Philippines. Suddenly, it dawned on me why Malacañang is bent on replacing a career official in the Bureau of Customs, who has not been accused of any offense, with a brash outsider. (As I see it, 9/1/01) The career official, Deputy Customs Commissioner Emma M. Rosqueta, does not want to approve the claim of SGS because of many questionable billings. Her proposed replacement, a Gil Valera, may have been given the mission to sign the claim.

SGS is claiming P6.4 billion from the Philippine government for services allegedly rendered when it was the authorized inspector of shipments bound for the Philippines. Its contract was terminated last March 2000 after the Philippine government realized that SGS was doing more harm than good for the country. A joint review team, composed of representatives from BOC and SGS, was formed to come up with the final accounting of the SGS claim. Ms Rosqueta was designated as the chair of that team.

Though the review team came up with a recommendation to grant SGS P5 billion, Rosqueta refused to sign the report on the basis of some very valid points.

She uncovered many questionable bills being charged by SGS, including the following:

1. Some SGS bills covered services rendered after the contract ended in March 2000.
2. Double billings, or bills for work where SGS had already been paid.
3. Bills for unreconciled transactions or questionable inspections.
4. SGS was not charged for penalties arising for onerous reporting in accordance with the contract.

Rosqueta wanted all these issues resolved before final payment to SGS because taxpayers' money and government finances are involved. She has submitted to the Department of Finance her comments and reservations on the report of the joint review team. Then Finance Secretary Jose Pardo agreed with her and said no payment should be made until the issues are resolved. Because of Rosqueta's position, SGS' claim remains unsettled until now.

SGS does not want to face these issues, obviously for fear of losing its claim. Despite pressure to make Rosqueta sign the recommendation and approve the claim, she has stood by her position. No less than Pardo's successor in the finance department told her to end the impasse but she did not want to sign because she may be sued for graft later to the findings in the report. Thus, the only solution is to get her out of BOC.

Five billion pesos is a lot of money, money the cash-strapped government cannot afford. It is faced with a gargantuan budget deficit and government agencies have been told to tighten belts and at the same time squeeze taxpayers with more and higher taxes. In spite of all these, the Department of Finance has eagerly "set aside" P5.4 billion to pay SGS. It would be to the advantage of the Philippine government to delay payment until SGS has answered the questions regarding its claim, until the government has more money to pay it. But why is the DOF so eager to pay even while doubts over the claim linger?

Because P5 billion is a lot of money. Even only 10 percent of that is P500 million. What more if it is 25 or 30 percent?

* * *

Going back to Mr. Gil Valera, the outsider who wants to be deputy custom commissioner—who, in fact, goes to the BOC every day, calls himself "deputy commissioner" and tries to do the work of Rosqueta despite a restraining order from the court—it is not true that the Malacañang Search Committee recommended him for deputy custom commissioner. He was recommended for regional collector. But he wants to be deputy commissioner, Rosqueta's position in particular. There is another deputy commissioner who is already 70 years old, in fact, has already retired but was recalled by President Estrada. If Malacañang really wants Valera to be deputy commissioner, this is the logical position to be vacated. So why are they zeroing in on Rosqueta's position? Because it is the occupant of that position who must sign the recommendation to pay SGS P5 billion. If Valera is finally installed as deputy commissioner, I predict one of the first things he will do is sign the SGS claim.

Another probable reason why Valera doesn't want to dislodge the retired commissioner is that both of them were supporters of Estrada. Former Rep. Gualberto Lumauig, chapter president of Lakas in Abra, called me to say that Valera is a ranking leader of "Jeep ni Erap" and that he is not related to Governor Valera of Abra. One more proof that the Search Committee did a lousy job in selecting Valera.

But who call the shots in appointments to the custom bureau? Is it President Macapagal or Presidential Management Staff Vicky Garchitorena? The President promoted another career official to chief of the administrative department but the President's signature is not good enough for the retired deputy commissioner. She refused to recognize the promotion. Instead, she appointed a relative, already the chief of one department, to head the vacant administrative department in a concurrent capacity.

In all these *kalokohan*, the customs commissioner, Titus Villanueva, seems not to be aware or to care.

Suggestions

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I HAVE two suggestions for the direction the Senate hearing should take.

The first is for Victor Corpus et al. to take their case against Panfilo Lacson away from it and bring it to court. They may not keep the Senate in a state of suspended animation while they build their case against Lacson.

One month is more than enough to do that. If I recall right, one month after Chavit Singson came out with his revelations against Joseph Estrada, the President was impeached. That was Manuel Villar's shining hour in the House of Representatives, when he pulled a coup to hale Estrada to the impeachment court.

That is how things should be. We may not conscript the Senate to do the job for us, to help us build a case against anybody, however detestable he is in our eyes. That is not its job, that is the job of government's prosecutors.

But my further suggestion in this respect is that the justice department file a case first against the people Mary Ong has testified against before the Senate, the people whose criminal activities she has direct knowledge of. These are John Campos, Reynaldo Acop and Francisco Villaroman. And take off from there. Maybe they'll sing before the trial is over, maybe they won't. That is a chance we'll have to take. It would be dangerous to bring in Lacson immediately. There is a law called double jeopardy. It says that you may not try a person for the same case twice. If Lacson were found innocent of the charges Corpus has leveled against him in court, he is free forever. There is no way we may tag him with those crimes again.

And right now, to say that Corpus' case against him is not watertight is to say that the roofs over hovels in Payatas made from biscuit cans are not rainproof. That is the understatement of the decade. Corpus did not exactly inspire confidence when he said during the hearing, when pressed by Lacson to back up his accusation of money laundering with proof, that he could not do so at that point because that would jeopardize their ongoing investigation of the case. Yet in the same breath, he said minutes later that the reason he went to media at once with his revelations of Lacson's money laundering was that national security demanded it, preventing "narco-politics" from becoming entrenched in government demanded it. But surely the same principle applies? The coyness in the one and rashness in the other does not help to bolster his credibility.

And though I admire Mary Ong's courage and am prepared to show my support for her in every way, I found little comfort too in her statement on TV that she was reserving the best for last, that she had the goods on Lacson but would only reveal them at the right time. **Now** is the right time, when options have to be weighed, when reality checks need to be taken. Lest we forget, the current Senate hearing is about Lacson. You cannot just tell the senators "Trust me," and expect them to go along with it.

But whether the case is brought against Lacson or his men, the courts are now the proper place to hear it out. There, civil society and anti-crime groups may camp out the way they did during the impeachment trial and exercise their vigilance.

Which brings me to my second suggestion. And that is for the Senate to continue with the hearing, but to change its nature from Lacson's possible culpability in money laundering, drugs, kidnapping and murder, to the possible culpability in them of the PNP as a whole. I personally cannot see how the Senate hearing can be justified on the basis of its current premise. You cannot have a hearing against Lacson with no direct evidence being brought out against Lacson. That is the difference between the Senate hearing on Singson's charges against Estrada and Corpus' charges against Lacson. The first was clear, focused and direct. The second is muddled, wooly and inferential.

If the hearing should still lead to Lacson, well and fine. Who knows? Maybe Corpus can still find the witnesses who can directly tag Lacson to kidnapping, drugs and murder, quite apart from money laundering. But the hearing may no longer be tied to it. Changing the nature of the hearing into a serious scrutiny of the PNP's involvement in criminal activity by no means lessens or dilutes its import. It increases and strengthens it. At the very least, it should dispel the charge of the hearing being politically motivated, and the suspicion that the senators are acting on partisan lines.

At the very most, it follows logically from what we have heard so far. Ong's testimony itself—though she has subsequently apologized to the current heads of the PNP, saying she never meant them but only the past ones—should indicate that the rot goes farther than Lacson. Her earlier story about being abducted by a group that was a rival gang of Campos, Acop, Villaroman, and their boss, Lacson, must suggest that others in the PNP are just as steeped in the racket that they are eager to pin their enemies down to. The PNP was already rotten before Lacson. It is hard to see how it has ceased to be so after Lacson.

The testimony of the other witnesses, including Acop, bolster it. If Acop is to be believed, the rot festers in the customs and justice departments themselves. I do not know why we should naturally throw out his counteraccusations. This may be a case of the pot calling the kettle black, and vice versa, both being perfectly right.

I agree; we cannot afford to terminate the Senate hearing just when things are becoming interesting. And I agree: we have an excellent opportunity at this point to do something about "narco-politics," or beyond "narco-politics," about organized crime masquerading as law enforcement. As I said last week, I can't think of anything more important the Senate should be busying itself with at this point. But let us be deathly careful that we do things right. Let us be deathly careful about being fair, about respecting rights, about enforcing due process.

And let the ax fall where it may.

Don't trivialize drug issue as mere 'politicking'—Coronel

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THERE are news reports that suspected drug lord Kim Wong has flown the coop, this time for good—leaving behind all his property and investments here. I tried verifying this from Wong's lawyer, former Solicitor-General Frank Chavez, as well as Immigration Chief Andrea Domingo, but up to press time I was unsuccessful in calling them, inasmuch as yesterday was Sunday. If Wong really has left, it doesn't look good for him, and for his friend, Sen. Ping Lacson. As lawyers always put it, flight is an admission of guilt.

* * *

It was a most interesting all-day assembly called by Fr. Tito Caluag, S.J., yesterday at the Ateneo University High School covered courts, to tackle what he called "the main event, the final battle." The "Samahan Para sa Katotohanan at Kinabukasan," or "Katotohanan" for short, which declared itself an alliance of concerned and committed organizations and citizens, is a new bonding of the old Edsa I and II forces. This time their target is the growing drug menace in the country and how to combat it, to save the nation from ending up as a "narco-state" embroiled in "narco-politics."

Katotohanan is on the right track as it plans to bring the awareness of the drug menace to its primary targets, the young people, primarily by visits to the schools. Father Caluag cited studies that show that of the 1.8 million to 2 million Filipinos said to be involved in drugs, an estimated million are from the A, B and E classes and age group 7-21 years. He noted the direct relationship between drug-addiction and poverty and heinous crimes, and that of the various regions, the highest percentage affected is Mindanao.

In this regard, it would be good for the various civic organizations such as the Rotary, Jaycees and Lions, as well as church and family based organizations such as the Couples for Christ and the Christian Family Movement, to join in the drug-awareness effort. This is a fight that should involve all sectors. Local officials and citizens should also be on the lookout against plantations of marijuana and poppy, and to police our vast coastline for drug shipments.

* * *

Victor Corpus addressed the assembly yesterday morning, while Rosebud was scheduled to show up in the afternoon. But it was the newly appointed executive director of the National Drug Enforcement and Prevention Coordinating Center, Police Director Miguel Coronel, who gave a briefing on the extent as well as the various facets of the drug problem. Coronel's presentation is in slide form and the various civic clubs would do well to look at it.

Branding the drug problem as "Public Enemy No. 1" and "Threat No. 1 to National Security," the new anti-drug czar approached his analysis from three points. These were "Narco-Economics" which, as the "heart and soul of the drug problem," operates on the age-old relationship between supply and demand, and the huge profit motive; "Narco-Politics," wherein politicians could be elected on the strength of drug money; and "Narco-Justice," wherein the law enforcement, prosecution, the courts and the correctional institutions are influenced by the drug business, estimated to be worth here from P250 billion to P300 billion annually. Coronel lamented that more than 20,000 drug cases clog the court dockets every year, but sadly, most of the 36,000 cases last year resulted in the release of the accused.

* * *

Coronel batted for the speedy passage of the anti-money laundering law by Congress as it is "the most important hurdle" in the current battle against the drug lords. This is because the law would then enable law enforcement agencies to run after the drug money that has found its way into our banks and is being "layered" in order to disguise its dirty origins. For instance, did you know that the drug lords are always on the lookout for the winners of lotto and gambling in casinos, in order to buy their winnings, which they then deposit in banks?

But there was one point stressed by Coronel that I thought was relevant. He warned against "trivializing" the drug-issue into a battle simply of personalities or of pro- and anti-administration officials. This is relevant because the giant ABS-CBN network has precisely done this. A current ABS-CBS ad shows a little girl talking about her father being jobless and her brothers going hungry. Then the photo of Corpus and Lacson facing each other is shown, with her voice asking them, *"Ano ba ang pinagaawayan ninyo?"* Then comes the not so subliminal message in one printed line: *Tama na ang pamumulitika.*

It is a shame that ABS-CBN chose to reduce this grave issue into "politicking." In its heart of hearts I am sure the giant network is convinced that far from being mere politicking, the issue strikes at national security and welfare, yet the network chooses to peddle this line of politicking.

* * *

Recently I paid a call on Elmor Juridico, executive director of the Employees' Compensation Commission, under DOLE, to bring to his attention the case of a retired worker in Negros Occidental who had sought this column's help. The former heavy equipment operator in a sugar plantation in Negros sought help in claiming benefits due him, but over the years since he filed his claim, he has received only form letters from the ECC in various administrations. I showed director Juridico, who is a Macapagal appointee, the various replies from the ECC and he admitted that the latest form reply sent to the Visayan claimant was the ECC's way of letting the claimant know that his claim is being processed—rather than not answer him at all. Juridico told me that his two big problems are the backlog of 700 cases he inherited from his predecessor and the shortage of personnel to process them. He pointed out that the ECC has only three lawyers and three doctors to investigate all claims, and that in fact, to hurry things up, he imposed on each lawyers a quota of two cases per day to finish.

Congress clearly should support with a bigger staff and budget offices such as the ECC which deals directly with citizens.

* * *

We reminisced a bit and I learned that Director Juridico, who had served with the POEA and as executive director of the Career Executive Service Board (Ceso) prior to his appointment as ECC chief, was one of those recruited by then Labor Minister Blas Ople when he formed the Institute of Labor and Manpower Studies in 1975. Ople, in fact, had recruited a number of people who were later to carve distinguished careers in the labor field. Among them were current DOLE Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas; former Labor Secretary and now Rep. Ruben Torres of Zambales; former Secretary Nieves Confesor; Erap's former PMS director, Leonora Vasquez de Jesus; Rene Ofreneo, former dean of the School of Labor and Industrial Relations of UP, and current Tesda director Lucita Lazo.

They called him 'Alongan (Light)'

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

ECLIPSED by the heat of the ongoing national drama involving the twin-congressional hearings on the alleged Abu Sayaff-military collusion in Basilan and the Corpus-Lacson "narco-politics" investigation was the brutal Aug. 28 murder of Irish Missionary Fr. Rufus Halley in Malabang, Lanao del Sur.

Both Muslims and Christians mourned the death of Father Popong (as the missionary was fondly called by both Christian and Muslim residents of the sleepy town of Malabang), not only because he was well-loved, but because it came in the midst of heightened inter-faith dialogues and efforts toward finding lasting and concrete solutions to the problems in Mindanao. For many people, Father Popong was a symbol for all of these.

It did not therefore help that accounts of the killing linked the "priest killers" to a lost command of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, with one wire report even saying that the victim was a foreign church worker ("a frequent target of Muslim gunmen," it said), hinting that it was the latest in a spate of attacks against foreigners in Mindanao.

All these elements, whipped up in a story, conspired to only aggravate what was already a very complicated and deeply rooted issue in Mindanao. Many fear that stories such as these only resurrect old wounds and jeopardized inroads already made in healing these wounds through active dialogues between the two main religious faiths in the island.

That Father Popong was killed on the Narciso Ramos Highway, the site of the fierce confrontations between the government forces and the MILF rebels during the all-out war waged by the Estrada administration, also heightened the sense of irony.

Father Popong decided to stop saying Mass at an army camp in Lanao del Sur amid hostilities between government troops and rebels, citing the Catholic Church's opposition to the war in Mindanao.

There were also speculations that the tragedy would have repercussions in the GRP-MILF peace negotiations. Although both panels already issued statements that it will not affect the talks, it would be well if they jointly exert efforts to bring to justice the senseless death of a person who was among the pioneers in working for interfaith dialogue in Mindanao.

Father Popong's death also brings into mind the April 1985 murder of Fr. Tulio Favali in Tulunan, North Cotabato by a paramilitary group led by Norberto "Kumander Bucay" Manero. Father Favali was also engaged in inter-faith dialogues, not only among the marginalized Christians and Muslims, but also among the lumads. But because of his advocacy, he and his fellow Italian missionary, Fr. Peter Geremiah, were accused by Manero's group as communist sympathizers. But instead of cowing people into submission, Father Favali's death became the rallying symbol, particularly for the church peoples, in the anti-Marcos dictatorship struggle.

Father Popong may have been killed but he will always be remembered, at least in the hearts and minds of those people whose lives he touched; in the hearts and minds of the Maranaos who claimed him as "one of their own" and called him *alongan* (light).

* * *

WATCHING THE PLUNDERERS: One premium brought about by the trial for plunder against former President Estrada and his co-accused is the growing vigilance of several groups to also train their attention on similar acts committed by other officials, particularly those in agencies identified as most graft-prone and graft-ridden.

On Aug. 20, Plunder Watch-Davao formally filed a complaint before the Office of the Ombudsman-Mindanao against Juanito Abergas, the DPWH regional director for Southern Mindanao, for alleged anomalous transactions involving several millions of pesos worth of projects in the region.

Plunder Watch-Davao is a coalition of groups like the Mindanao Contractors Against Corruption, Bayan Muna and Mindanao for Mindanaoan Network.

They accused Abergas and several other unnamed officials of overpricing and ghost purchases of materials, and of favoring his friends in the form of awards of public work contracts.

Concrete results are now being awaited from a fact-finding panel created by the Ombudsman to look into the charges.

Lawyer Abe Marapao claimed that the filing of charges against Abergas was "only the initial step." Soon, Plunder Watch-Davao will also include other agencies whose officials are also corrupt.

The foray of Plunder Watch in actively running after corrupt officials also caught the attention of the Office of the President-Mindanao (OPMin). On Friday, Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza convened a meeting attended by representatives of government agencies, civil society, the academe and the various lawyer groups, with the end view of coordinating anti-corruption efforts. Dureza also announced the creation of a transparency desk in his office to receive and facilitate graft complaints.

The Mindanao Business Council also recently initiated efforts to create a coalition for transparency and good governance that will pave the way for an investor-friendly environment.

Now, with civil society and the private sector going after corrupt officials and employees, can we expect a reduction, if not, elimination of corruption? The challenge is of course for civil society to be relentless in its pursuit of these modern-day buccaneers. Corrupt officials and employees thrive, among other reasons, because of our own complacency and indifference that only perpetuates a culture that breeds them.

* * *

Comments may be e-mailed to karlos_z23@hotmail.com

User pays

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

SHOOTING ourselves in the foot has become a widespread preoccupation. Many of the self-inflicted wounds are the result of mental fallacies of the numerical kind (my favorite!) convoluted with good intentions, moral outrage, or any number of human preoccupations.

Take the example of the texting hordes who recently participated in a one-day moratorium on the use of Globe's and Smart's highly popular short messaging services. The idea behind the moratorium was to have everyone stop texting for just one day, to demonstrate the market power of millions of Filipino cell phone texters.

The moratorium was highly successful. Millions in losses were calculated for the Big Two Celcos. In fact, it was so successful that exultant texters spent the next week or so, informing each other of their great victory, by multiple text messages, of course, thus reaping the cell phone giants even greater profits than usual

Texting has become the public utility vehicle for interpersonal communications, but like many attempts to mount transport strikes, a texting boycott was dead at conception. It was a self-mockery even before the day of the moratorium because of the flurry of messaging that occurred to get the moratorium organized.

The bitter lesson to be learned is, when trying to buck the Law of Supply and Demand, it is best to avoid short boycotts and moratoriums of products or services that can be reacquired, with a vengeance, as in the case of texting. It's like trying to call for a public hunger strike in order to force the price of rice below its real market price. How successful could that be, do you think? Texting has become an integral part of many Filipinos' lives, as elemental as eating. Deprived on any given day, recovery is swift on the next.

For dyed-in-the-wool free market theorists, the pat observation is that if Smart and Globe are unfairly raising their prices now, market forces will sooner or later force them to offer the service at the "true" market price, human greed and corporate survival being the motive force of all rational decision-making.

These mysterious market forces could come in many different forms, such as the emergence of, hypothetically, an all-text messaging service, or leaner, meaner cell phone service providers that would demand interconnection access to and use of the "public" networks of the big boys. In fact, as long as Smart and Globe are not in collusion, their free competition is what guarantees the long term health of the industry for both the service providers and their customers. It is the promotion and protection of free competition in the market to provide such an evidently cherished service as texting that civil society should fight to ensure in order to protect the long-term interests of the consumer.

The howls of pain and anguish arising from the ranks of texters everywhere are completely understandable. It is akin to the first time one ever saw a GAME OVER sign on a favorite video game. Why should such a bauble of technology as texting have to cost anything at all? Isn't that supposed to be the miracle of science? To make everything so cheaply as to be virtually free for everyone?

Gerry Kaimo, webmaster of the pseudonymous, thorn-in-the-side, spoof website, www.pldt.com, (for Philippine League for Democratic Telecommunications) has even raised our favorite activity involving the thumb, to the level of a sacred human right. He called Smart and Globe "text trolls," in yesterday's PDI Talk of the Town section of our favorite newspaper. Speaking on behalf of 10 million outraged and chagrinned texters, he pillories their treacherous corporate greed for raising the effective price on text messages by reducing the famous "free allocation of text messages."

Of course, nothing was ever free, but the reigning confusion over it just goes to show how brilliant that particular marketing stratagem was for Globe's original GSM or digital cell phone marketing campaign a few years ago. Free text was the free razor that has sold all the blades of fully-paid-for air time on cellular networks, virtually the only sector of the non-agriculture economy that grew significantly in 2000 and still going strong this year.

Smart's Mon Isberto had the unpleasant task of defending the unpopular moves of the telcos in an accompanying piece, pointedly peacemaking and titled "Striking the balance." He was pointing to the massive funding requirements of the market-driven expansion programs of both Globe and Smart. What became painfully obvious however from Isberto's explanation of why local expansion of mobile phone services will cost an arm and a leg, is our utter dependence on foreign technology, but that is another issue.

Kaimo is right to raise the banners of militant consumerism in the Philippines. I think consumerism is the original, and still most potent form of people power. The power of the consumer is the ongoing election by choice among buyers and sellers that characterizes a free market. But I am puzzled by at least one of the rhetorical questions he poses. He asks, referring to Globe and Smart, "Why did they not approach banks for investments and loans and instead of choosing to hit the already harassed Filipino consumer?"

I hope he does not mean that the texting habit should be subsidized by taxpayers or some other constituency, through some kind of government involvement in the industry or other ill-advised regulatory regime. I say, let the consumers of text services pay for them. That way, they will get the best service at the lowest cost that can be supported by the market. Ultimately, this principle of user pays is the really big issue at stake in particular controversies like the mess over texting short messages. User pays is the fairest form of economy.

Politically correct comic strips

ORIGINALLY, comic strips were meant to make the readers laugh. But things have changed. They have evolved into a forum for the expression of political sentiments by the artist, and sometimes the newspaper itself, using humor as the medium.

One of the INQUIRER's comic strip mainstays is "A. LIPIN," courtesy of its resident cartoonist, Jess Abrera. He uses satire and wit to convey whatever thoughts he may have about the issues of the day.

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

At the height of the Senate hearings last August where Angelo "Ador" Mawanay, former civilian agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, testified on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged criminal activities, Abrera featured Mawanay several times in his comic strip.

The sketch of Mawanay gave prominence to his elongated chin. In the Aug. 27 strip, the INQUIRER's carabao mascot, Goyito, was shown saying that he is a liar. When asked why Goyito made that statement, Goyito replied that per records, Mawanay's height is 5'11" but later he changed his height to 6'11." Mawanay countered that his height is 5'11' if he is looking downwards, but his height goes up to 6'11" when he looks up!

A reader, Antonio Calipjo Go, was not amused by the comic illustration of Mawanay. He wrote: "I would like to call your attention to the series (Aug. 27, 28, 29 and 30) of cartoons made by Mr. Jess Abrera for his A. LIPIN which makes fun of Ador's very prominent chin. Humor may not be purchased at the price of cruelty. The poor fellow cannot do anything about his physical deformity.

"If we absolutely must, I'd rather that we caricature the evil that men do, such as those performed by some dishonorable simians at the Senate, i.e., belly dancing, texting, sleeping at an impeachment trial.

"Why not lampoon and lambaste that grandstanding 'filibustero' who threatens to have sex, as well as pee and poop, right there on the Senate floor? Rest assured that we will never run out of incidents so hilarious that they make you cry so long as there are politicians around."

No bad intention

A review of the strips the reader mentioned (copies of which were attached to his letter) shows that Mawanay's chin was the focus of attention or fun in the four-day comic series. The chin was depicted as a deadly weapon, the subject of a silicone transplant and an attractive site for a dimple.

When informed of the reader's complaint, Abrera replied: "In my comic strip, I pattern the characters after news personalities and make them into cartoon figures in humorous situations. In the strip, they become cute and funny fictional characters, no longer the real persons that inspired them. Caricatures as a rule capture the most prominent features of a character.

"Prominent features are exaggerated in caricatures to make a cute cartoon character; they are not seen as deformities. The character patterned after Ador does not intend to belittle the real Ador or present him as a villain. I did not intend it to be cruel on the real Ador, maybe because I see other TV personalities who make fun of their own physical characteristics but do not reduce their worth."

Upon reading Abrera's explanation, I went through his past comic strips to find out how he drew other public personalities with uncharacteristic physical traits. True enough, Abrera emphasized the most prominent features of his comic characters.

His strips about President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo touched on her short height (or being vertically challenged), with then senator, now Vice President, Tito Guingona it was his big eyes, with Sen. Aquilino Pimentel it was his drooping eye-bags and with former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile the focus was on his angular facial shape.

Taking into consideration Abrera's explanation and the tenor of his previous comic strips, I believe he did not act with malice when he exaggerated Mawanay's chin in his drawings. Now if Mawanay writes to complain that he has been unfairly illustrated, that will be a different story.

With regard to the reader's statement about "some dishonorable simians at the Senate" who are proper subjects of cartoons, I totally agree with that observation. The present Senate has more than its allowable share of clowns and nincompoops.

Wrong name and photo

In its Sept. 3 issue, the INQUIRER reported that writer Ma. Cristina Hidalgo was appointed by President Macapagal to the Commission on Higher Education to take over the post earlier vacated by retired Commissioner Mona Valisno. A photo of Hidalgo accompanied the news report.

Incidentally, Hidalgo is the wife of Antonio Hidalgo, the consultant whose services the INQUIRER has tapped to monitor the grammatical errors in the news reports, features and articles of the newspaper.

It turned out that it was Ma. Cristina Padolina, a science specialist, not Ma. Cristina Hidalgo, who was appointed to that post. The booboo was discovered on the day the news item came out. The following day, the INQUIRER made the appropriate correction and apologized for the error.

A reader who knew Hidalgo from their college days called up to ask how such an error can be committed by a newspaper that prides itself in accurate reporting. In her words: "You did a big disservice to Padolina and Hidalgo. You should send separate letters of apology to them!"

The reporter who submitted the news report explained that "the mistake was unintentional and indicated nothing more than a carelessness, a first—and hopefully the last—case for this reporter. Coming from UP Diliman, I surmise this is because I am more familiar with the name 'Ma. Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo,' an English professor in the university, than 'Ma. Cristina Padolina,' the new CHEd commissioner."

It was, to put it euphemistically, a case of "slip of the mind." The reporter may have meant to write the name "Ma. Cristina Padolina" but her mind was influenced by the past name recall or mental association with "Ma. Cristina Hidalgo." The instructions from the brain to write the latter name instead of the former came faster. Unless somebody else read what had been written, that kind of error was difficult to spot and correct.

A similar slip almost happened to an editor when she was writing the news about the testimony of then bank executive Clarissa Ocampo at the impeachment trial of former President Estrada on Dec. 23, 2000. While typing the report, she unconsciously associated Clarissa Ocampo with "Clarissa Batino," one of the INQUIRER's business reporters.

Every time she was supposed to write "Clarissa Ocampo," what her fingers typed were "Clarissa Batino." Her mind appeared to play tricks on her as she rushed to finalize the news report to beat the deadline. It will be recalled that it was past 10 p.m. when Ocampo finished her testimony, or beyond the cut-off point for the submission of the final draft of the newspaper to the printing press. So the editorial staff was in a rush to complete their assigned reports.

As luck would have it, another editor who looked at the report on Ocampo's testimony spotted the error. It was immediately corrected and the right surname appeared at next day's issue of the newspaper.

INQUIRER consultant Antonio Hidalgo must have had a nice laugh when he read the mistake involving his wife. Let's see how he will classify that error (major or minor) when the editorial staff reviews this afternoon his report on the mistakes committed in last week's issues of the newspaper.

Again, the INQUIRER apologizes to Padolina and Hidalgo for the error.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The ***Readers' Advocate***" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City." Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Finding fault with Pimentel

SO the Aquilino Pimentel bashing goes on. In fact, it is a bit of a media vogue: To some columnists, reporters, caricaturists, editorialists and letter to the editor writers, the senator is fair game. Why are they disappointed with him? The following are some "unreasons" based on incorrect premises:

Firstly, Pimentel is a natural ally of and perfunctory member of the so-called civil society. Remember his historic contribution to fuel the rationale and emotions of Edsa II via his politically correct decision to give up the Senate presidency during the Estrada impeachment trial rather than vote against his conscience and principles? He was also the photogenic microphone holder for the inaugural address of newly installed President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Wasn't the senator, after all, a street parliamentarian, a political detainee, a freedom fighter and a respected anti-Marcos activist like them?

Secondly, Nene Pimentel has been *napa-barkada* in the wrong company of Estrada supporters. He should align himself, they say, with the likes of his political soul-mate Sen. Joker Arroyo, not with Sen. Panfilo Lacson, et al. In short, Pimentel should be pro-administration like they are.

Thirdly, Pimentel is *pikon* and a sore loser for having been left out by the President in favor of Senate President Franklin Drilon. *Ad infinitum, ad nauseam.*

This bears repeating: Pimentel did not choose to be in the opposition. That role was thrust upon him by the administration. He merely wants to preserve the glory of a revered institution and the nobility of a senator's independence of mind. He was treated shabbily and considered a political "pariah" instead of a coalition partner. While they were plotting at Malacañang on the Senate leadership, he was outside the *kulambo*. Maybe they needed a credible, diligent and respectable oppositionist and/or an independent, incisive and courageous fiscalizer cut out in the person of Pimentel? What serendipity! For all his faults, the political guy has not been known to be a *pikon*, much less a sore loser or political crybaby.

Incidentally, on hindsight, and while not privy to the senator's thoughts, I think that if the vice presidency of the nation were offered to him, instead of Sen. Teofisto Guingona, Pimentel would have, with all the graciousness he could summon, politely turned it down because his leadership style abhors a partisan straitjacket. But that is water under the bridge.

Neither is Pimentel the legal counselor of Senator Lacson nor is he a zealous political safehouse guardian of the beleaguered senator.

Pimentel is merely concerned with truth and the rule of law. Truth that sets everyone free as the ultimate reason which in turn gives life to the law itself. True, the Senate investigations are not out to simply find guilt or declare innocence, but evidence, be it testimonial, documentary or physical, must always be credible, reputable, lawfully acceptable and truthfully reasonable.

Otherwise, Senate investigations will run riot and debase the august chamber.

Some columnist/reporter friends and former "classmates" in the parliament of the streets have told me that Pimentel is fast losing *pogi* points. I believe that the senator's name spells rectitude in governance, excellence in legislative work, morality in both public and private life, nobility in the independence of mind and courage to stand up for the rule of law, truth and reason.

In the words of Prof. Archibald Cox: "Through the centuries, men of law have been persistently concerned with the resolution of disputes in ways that enable society to achieve its goals with a minimum of force and a maximum of reason."

Simply put, fault-finding with Pimentel is both misdirected and misplaced. It is also misfiring and a misunderstanding. And a mistake.—**LUTGARDO B. BARBO, chief of staff, Senate Minority Leader, Senate, Pasay City**

LETTERS

Need to look into whole aspect of GMOs

WE applaud the recent peaceful and militant protest action of farmers groups headed by Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) chapter in South Cotabato against the field testing of Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) corn, a so-called genetically modified organism (GMO). Contrary to the statement of Monsanto, a leading proponent of the commercialization of GMOs, the farmer's group and their supporters was not a mob and their protest action was legitimate.

As a sign of protest, the group uprooted all the experimental plants of Bt corn in Barangay Maltana, Tampacan, South Cotabato. This was after the group exhausted all possible legal venues over the years to air their disagreement and concerns against the field testing of the controversial plant.

Scientists, consumer and environmental groups support the farmers' action. It expresses our strong opposition against the introduction and commercialization by agro-chemical transnational companies' GMO products in our agriculture and food market.

We believe that GMO products, as currently marketed, such as the Bt corn, will further impoverish our local farmers, threaten their health and degrade our environment.

While it is still an open debate whether GMO products are safe or not, it is an obvious fact that these products are now designed to earn significant profits for the agro-chemical companies.

Let us look back at the predecessor of GMOs in agriculture, the high yielding varieties (HYVs). In the '60s, the Green Revolution packaged HYVs as the solution to our low agricultural productivity and will result in the alleviation of farmers' poverty. While there was an increase in rice production in the early years of the Green Revolution, the ill effects of HYVs have been showing up, with our farmers reeling from its negative impacts, to wit:

- Increase in production cost of agriculture. Costs of HYV seeds, chemical fertilizers and pesticides rise annually. These end up negating the income realized by farmers from increase in their harvest.
- Widespread erosion of our traditional rice and corn varieties. In the 1960s there were more than 5,000 rice varieties planted in the Philippines. By the '90s, 87 percent of our total farmlands are planted to only five to six hybrid varieties. Similarly, our farmers have lost natural local food source such as *hito* and local *kuhol*, again brought about by intensive use of chemical inputs.
- Increase in poisoning incidence and chemical related diseases among farming communities brought about by intensive use and inadequate information regarding the proper handling of chemical inputs in production.
- Widespread degradation of agricultural lands because of increased soil acidity and toxicity. Increased incidence of pest outbreaks and resurgence of major plant pests and diseases such as the golden *kuhol*, tungro virus and corn borer.

Again, agro-chemical TNCs, the proponents of HYV, are now proclaiming GMOs as the "new solution" to our low productivity in agriculture. We could not help believing otherwise.

In the United States, Monsanto commercially sells Bt corn seeds and products to farmers and food corporations. Bt corn seeds come with a contract agreement and prepackaged agricultural products. First, farmers are not allowed to collect, store, share and plant second generation Bt corn seeds. Farmers who do so can be imprisoned or charged in court. This just means that they will have to continue buying the seeds from the market

Second, when farmers buy and plant Monsanto Bt corn seeds they must also buy and use Monsanto Round-Up herbicide. This scheme brought multimillion dollar profits for Monsanto in the United States alone. In 1998 Monsanto had a 25 percent increase in volume sale of Round-Up herbicide and a tripling of the area planted with Monsanto's GMO crops.

Farmers, scientists, environmentalists and consumers are open to and welcome any development in science and technology as well as their corresponding products as long as these will bring benefits and truly serve mankind. But the GMO products of agrochemical TNCs like the Bt and golden rice will not solve our century-old problem of low agricultural productivity and alleviate farmers from poverty nor will it prevent the degradation of our environment. Its clear design and purpose is the further dependency of our farmers on agrochemical TNC products such as seeds, chemical fertilizer and pesticide thus intensifying their monopoly control of our agriculture.—**FRANCES QUIMPO, national coordinator, Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment, 175-B Kamias Extension, Sikatuna Village, Quezon City**

The rule, not the exception

THIS is in reaction to Conrado de Quiros' column about "Honor" last Sept. 4, 20001. He was referring to the PMA alumni who have been involved in the controversies and the venerable institution that is the Philippine Military Academy that De Quiros unfortunately compared with the seminary.

It is with deep appreciation that the legislative have conducted investigations to ferret out the truth in this matter. What saddens me is the fact that De Quiros wrote that the fine graduates my alma mater produced for our country are more the exception rather than the rule. That is very unfair to the majority of men and women alumni who are serving their duties across our land quietly, professionally and without. funfare. They are content to be assigned to distant posts, away from their, families but just the same serving the Filipino people with the virtues of courage, integrity and loyalty. In them, the spirit of the Honor Code is very much alive. Recognizing that fact should put De Quiros in the proper context.—**LT. GENTLY E. ARMEDO, PA, 511B, 11D, Guipos, Zamboanga del Sur**

Lacson deserves due process

I AGREE with Conrado de Quiros' "Jail him, don't make him resign" column of Sept. 6, 2001.

If the 2004 elections were limited to a choice between Sen. Panfilo Lacson and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo I would vote for the latter. I cannot vote an alumnus of the MISG to the presidency. The image of a Philippines where one will be required to scream "Heil Lacson!" is just too vivid.

However, these very sentiments compel me to disagree with the way Lacson has been treated by Corpus, Almonte and some civil society groups. It's as if they have unwittingly adapted Lacson's MISG mentality of "*Komunista naman iyan, kalaban yan ng estado at dahil d'yan ay wala yang karapatan.*" They seemed to have operated with the mindset that "*si* Lacson *naman yan, bata ni* Erap, *baka maging presidente sa 2004, kailangan durugin natin sa anumang paraan at baka maging* narco-state *tayo.*"

Sadly, it may be precisely because they have such a mindset, that they have bungled the effort to put Lacson in jail. It made them sloppy. Worse, they may have given him a clean slate in the minds of some sectors of the public.

Even Hitler's cohorts had the Nuremberg trials. Joseph Estrada had the impeachment trial although the stupidity of his Senate underlings and the dancing of Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta truncated it. Thus, to jail Lacson, he must be accorded due process. It would force the government to do its homework and not jerk around like what Corpus has been doing.

If, in order to jail Lacson, we become like him and the MISG, then he has already won.—**ELIAS JOSE M. INCIONG, lawyer, E.J.M. Inciong Law Offices, Suite 301 Union Square Condominium, No. 145, 15th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City**

So different from Ninoy

SEN. Tessie Aquino-Oreta is a disgrace to the Ninoy Aquino legacy that championed and defended our democratic processes.

In contrast, Senator Oreta has chosen to be a defender of all those who have been exposed publicly as dangerous, corrupt and decadent in our society. Her defense of former President Joseph Estrada and now Sen. Panfilo Lacson is a blatant example of how a sister of a national hero like Ninoy can be so wrong and active by her unreflecting position now that the "lack of solid evidence" should prompt the Senate inquiry to end. Are witnesses and affidavits not solid evidence?

In addition to her defense of Senator Lacson, she now injects her own suspicions but there are political forces behind Col. Victor Corpus. We agree that this force in none other than civil society's answer to organized crime, narcopolitics, summary executions, kidnappings, robbery and many other heinous crimes.

Senator Oreta must not be too emotional and apparent in defending Senator Lacson. She may suffer the same fate when she was branded as the "dancing lady" of the Senate in her defense of Estrada. We have not forgotten that disgusting show of "victory."

How different it would have been if Ninoy Aquino was the senator.—**SERGIO J. MONTINOLA, 231 Recoletos St., Urdaneta Village, Makati City**

Law school's unequalled record

MAY I comment on Victor Agustin's column last Sept. 5, 2001.

I find Mr. Agustin unfair. He appeared to have "dragged" the name of a Bedan, lawyer Kristine B. Tiangco, in his column. This is disturbing since our (law) profession is based on character, reputation and credibility. As all examinees will confirm, nobody can know the bar results until its release by the Supreme Court. Passing the bar exams is due to one's perseverance, diligence and faith in God. Credit must also be given to the educational institution.

I am honored to state that the San Beda College of Law, through the years, has maintained the highest passing percentage of successful bar examinees. Any reasonably minded lawyer understands what it means to graduate from our school. Ask the distinguished retired Justice Isagani S. Cruz. You can even ask the graduates of the Ateneo and UP Law Schools.—**AMOR BULALACAO-SANCIO, lawyer, San Beda College of Law Batch '98**

Japan's role in Asia still undefined

NEWS ANALYSIS

Francoise Kadri

TOKYO—Fifty years after Japan signed a treaty with the United States and 46 other nations formally reestablishing peace between the World War II foes, Tokyo has yet to find its voice in the Asia-Pacific region, analysts said.

Japan Saturday marked the anniversary of the signing of the San Francisco Treaty on Sept. 8, 1951 which drew a line under World War II in the Pacific theatre and the Allied Occupation of Japan.

It was also the catalyst for a controversial security pact between the United States and Japan that has been expanded and reinforced over the years.

This alliance has allowed Japan to enjoy the protection of the US "nuclear umbrella" throughout the Cold War in exchange for letting Washington maintain a massive military presence on the strategically placed archipelago.

But for Yasuhiko Yoshida, professor of international relations at Osaka University of Economy and Law, the security alliance has prevented Japan from developing a foreign policy of its own and from matching its economic clout in Asia-Pacific diplomacy.

"Japan is a puppet, a satellite country. Japan is too obedient to the United States; too loyal politically, economically and in security affairs," Professor Yoshida told AFP.

"It is not an equal treaty, but unilateral and one-sided under which Japan agreed to offer its own territory to US forces, and the main purpose of which was not to protect Japan but to counter a possible communist attack from China, Soviet Union and now North Korea," he added.

Yoshida supports revising this treaty and Japan's pacifist constitution which rules out the maintenance of land, sea or air forces. He wants the 236,000 members of the Self Defense Forces to be recognized for what they are—military forces—so that Japan will not be so much under Washington's wing.

Professor Hidenori Ijiri from the Tokyo University of International Studies, meanwhile advocates only a redefinition of the treaty to allow Japan to take more initiative in the Asia-Pacific region, rather than constitutional revision.

"We need to expand the definition, in that sense dialogue should be tightened including about the Korean Peninsula and Taiwan Straits," he said, pointing out that the security treaty was beefed up in 1996 following a period of heightened cross-straits tension as calls for independence from the mainland mounted in Taiwan.

Japanese public opinion remains deeply divided over whether it should have a military and if so, whether it should be allowed to participate in overseas peacekeeping missions.

Former prime minister Kiichi Miyazawa, currently in San Francisco to take part in the anniversary celebrations, suggested on Friday that Japan should "define the right of collective security as a logical extension of the right of self-defense," according to Kyodo News.

"Japanese Self-Defense Forces can and should be deployed to assist and defend US forces insofar as their activities are clearly and directly relevant to Japanese security risks," Kyodo quoted him as saying.

While, like any relationship, there have been ups and downs, notably when the security treaty was revised in 1960, prompting violent demonstrations by left-wingers calling for the withdrawal of US forces and the resignation of the prime minister.

Yet the pact has proved one of the most durable in the world, according to some historians.

"It has been a success as a whole, far closer and more cordial than the planners in San Francisco would have dared to imagine," said Roger Buckley, professor of the history of international relations at Tokyo's International Christian University.

"It worked rather well even if it is still an unequal relationship."

A key reason why it is still in existence 50 years on, according to Buckley is that "the Cold War is not over in Asia...We still have two Chinas, two Koreas, with one sending up missiles from time to time.

"The treaty will stay because public opinion doesn't want Japan to be a normal state and to play a bigger international role, and the rest of the world and the United States don't want to see a more powerful Japan," Buckley said.

The presence of US troops, numbering some 51,000 throughout the archipelago, goes unchallenged by central government and the public at large.

But on the island of Okinawa which reluctantly hosts about two-thirds of the US military presence, it is a different story.

A series of assaults on women and other crimes involving US servicemen have sparked mass protests over the years.

The latest trial—concerning the alleged rape of a young local woman in a car park by a US airforce sergeant is due to open on Sept. 11 in the main city of Naha.

"Most of the opposition to the US bases is in Okinawa, but it is convenient for the rest of Japan that Okinawa carries the burden of security," said Buckley. *AFP*

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Israel gunships attack after suicide bombing

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Israeli helicopter gunships launched attacks on Palestinian targets in Ramallah and El Bireh in the West Bank Sunday, Palestinian witnesses said.

In Ramallah two missiles hit a building housing a police headquarters and offices of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the witnesses said.

At El Bireh two more missiles struck an office of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

The attacks followed a suicide bombing which killed four people including the bomber at a railway station in northern Israel.

It was the second attack on Ramallah in successive days. On Saturday gunships hit the Fatah headquarters there with a missile, causing no injuries.

Palestinian officials described Saturday's strike as a failed assassination attempt.

The suicide bomber detonated his explosives next to a busy railroad station Sunday in the northern coastal town of Nahariya, killing himself and three other people, and wounding more than 30, police and a hospital said.

The blast occurred at a kiosk just a few meters from the train station, which was crowded with both soldiers and civilians on Sunday morning, the beginning of the work week in Israel.

"I was standing nearby and I heard a great explosion. It took me a minute to come to my senses and then I saw glass everywhere and I saw people running like crazy," witness Avi Levy told Israeli television. "People were crying and hysterical."

Police and ambulances rushed to the scene of the carnage to take the wounded to hospitals. More than 30 people were hurt, though most had relatively light injuries, the Nahariya hospital said.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for Sunday's bomb attack. However, radical Palestinian groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad have carried out suicide bombings throughout the 11 months of Mideast fighting.

Israel has often responded to bombings by knocking down Palestinian security buildings or with targeted killings of militants believed to be responsible for the attacks.

The latest violence cast doubts on possible truce talks between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. The two are expected to meet in coming days, but no time and place have been set.

In other violence Sunday, a van carrying Israeli teachers to schools in the West Bank was sprayed with automatic fire by a passing van with Palestinian license plates, witnesses said. Two Israelis—the driver and a woman teacher—were killed and four teachers were injured in the shooting in the Jordan Valley, said Israeli police spokesman Gil Kleiman said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. *AFP, AP*

EU considers extended Nato presence in Macedonia

GENVAL, Belgium—EU foreign ministers debated the merits Sunday of extending Nato's presence in Macedonia past its ongoing month-long mission to collect arms from ethnic Albanian rebels.

No firm decisions were to come out of the brainstorming weekend at this lakeside resort near Brussels, where the ministers also lunched with counterparts from EU candidate countries.

But with 11 of the 15 EU member states also belonging to Nato, the discussions could indicate the level of support for a more permanent Nato presence in the keystone Balkan state.

Germany is taking the lead in proposing a Nato peacekeeping force in Macedonia—similar to ones in Bosnia and Kosovo—that would deploy under a UN mandate at Skopje's invitation.

Its foreign minister Joschka Fischer is also proposing an early start to EU reconstruction aid to Macedonia, even before the Macedonian parliament adopts constitutional changes giving more rights to ethnic Albanians.

"The situation remains fragile," Fischer was quoted by aides as telling his colleagues, adding that a security vacuum would undermine all the work that has been done to stabilize the country.

Nato and the European Union worked closely to halt an ethnic Albanian rebellion in Macedonia that flared up in February and threatened to plunge the western Balkans into another war.

But the alliance's weapons-reaping operation, code-named Essential Harvest, involving 4,400 troops from about a dozen countries, is fixed to end on Sept. 27.

Fischer proposed that a longer-term Nato force be smaller than Operation Essential Harvest, according to German sources. *AFP*

No mention of Milosevic in school text

BELGRADE—At the start of the new school year, Serbian teenagers received a new history textbook which takes account of political changes in the country. But the authoritarian former ruler Slobodan Milosevic does not even get a mention.

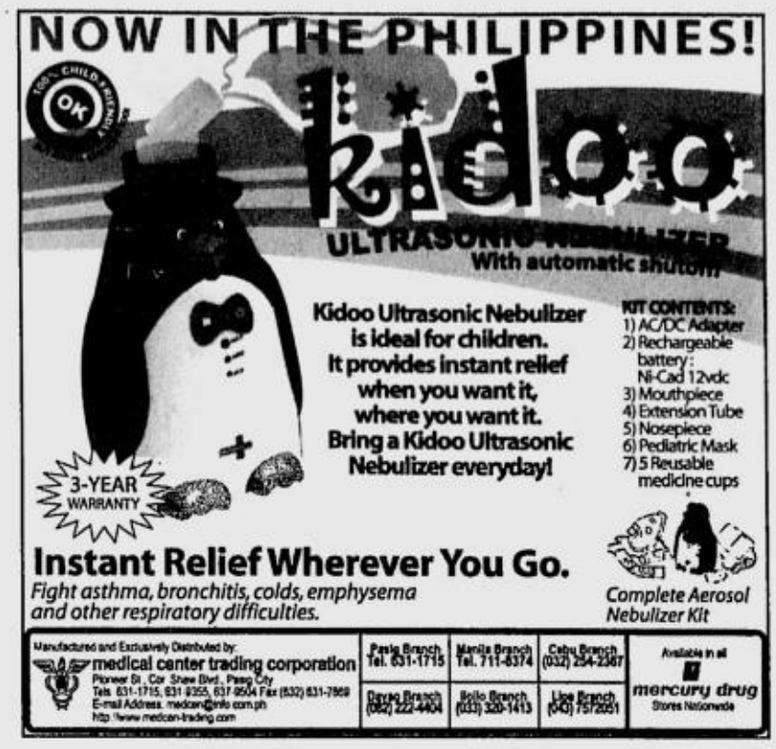
MILOSEVIC

The last section of the book, aimed at pupils in the final year of elementary school, is entitled "Contemporary problems of Yugoslavia" and catalogues the break up of the former Communist republic in the early 1990s and the ensuing wars.

It covers the founding of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1992, the Dayton agreement that ended the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia, the 1998-1999 war in Kosovo, the 11-week long Nato bombing campaign and the imposition of UN sanctions on the Balkan country.

The two-page chapter ends with the overthrow of the regime last October, the lifting of sanctions and Yugoslavia's return to the international community. But nowhere does it mention Milosevic.

The nationalist hardliner, blamed with instigating the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, was ousted in a popular uprising in October 2000 after being defeated in presidential elections after more than 10 years in power. *AFP*



NYSE COMPOSITE TRANSACTIONS

52 Weeks Hi	Lo	Stock	Sym	Yld Div	%	P-E	Vol 100s	Hi	Lo	Close	Net Chg
			-A-A-A-								
25.65	20.50	ABN Am pfB		1.76	7.2	...	946	24.75	24.66	24.74	+0.04
43.94	31.59	ACE Ltd	ACE	.60f	1.8	16	12341	34.00	32.50	33.16	−0.16
8.89	7.13	ACM GvtFd	ACG	.84	9.6	...	2036	8.75	8.65	8.72	+0.02
72.81	33.60	AES Cp	AES			...	32 52666	37.50	34.25	37.30	+3.20
110.00	56.00	AES Tr		3.38	5.6	...	1183	60.45	56.70	60.45	+3.95
s 37.47	23.38	AFLAC	AFL	.20	.7	24	23413	29.83	29.13	29.13	−0.38
13.13	7.90	AGCO Cp	AG	.04	.4	66	1175	9.90	9.50	9.87	−0.00
24.25	17.38	AGL Res	ATG	1.08	4.5	...	1593	23.90	23.20	23.87	+0.17
46.75	15.00	AIPC	PLB			...	27	905	43.05	41.40	42.81	−0.08
15.00	7.50	AK Steel	AKS	.25	2.0	30	1401	12.50	12.09	12.43	+0.35
43.94	27.63	AMFM	AMFM	stk		...	dd	6043	35.75	34.80	34.90	−1.01
62.27	31.50	AOL Time	AOL			...	dd	63531	45.75	44.60	45.14	+0.23
49.88	6.00	APW				...		6687	8.51	8.15	8.37	−0.10
s 24.76	12.41	AT&T	T	.15	.7	...		77436	20.63	20.20	20.48	−0.02
29.44	15.29	AT&T Wrls	AWE			...		125631	19.25	17.75	18.10	+1.54
31.75	15.13	AVX Cp	AVX	.15f		7	8	2675	22.15	21		+0.22
s 39.88	24.58	AXA ADS	AXA	.50e	1.8	...		2625	28.14	27		−0.01
56.25			ABT	.84	1.6	47		15226	51.98			−0.31
							25	15153	41.22			−0.45
							...	1828	7.7			−0.08
							...	32530	14.5			+0.01
								1393				−0.39
												+0.16
												+0.30
												+0.04
												+0.17
											83.19	+1.36
											67.98	+5.07
										53	5.70	+0.15
										81	30.10	+0.89
										8.15	8.20	−0.05
										40.75	41.29	−0.21
										11.70	11.80	−0.31
										11.82	11.88	−0.32
										30.50	30.64	−0.23
										21.60	20.51	20.61	−0.38
										39.14	38.20	39.07	−0.07
										44.04	43.51	43.69	−0.01
										32.25	31.90	32.08	−0.02
										37.25	36.55	37.20	+0.01
										16.98	16.25	16.95	+1.13
										39.60	38.29	38.59	−0.95
										44.70	43.10	43.77	−0.08
										18.85	18.26	18.76	+0.60
										77.40	74.50	77.00	+2.45
										23.35	22.90	23.19	−0.17
										52.00	50.16	51.66	+1.51
										13.30	13.00	13.15	
										10.17	9.95	9.96	−0.01
										28.85	28.16	28.35	−0.65
										23.50	23.16	23.36	−0.13
										18.90	18.20	18.55	+0.45
										53.30	52.20	52.48	−0.82
										35.88	35.00	35.51	−0.14
										62.00	61.60	61.89	−0.11
										28.79	28.00	28.50	+0.50
										57.20	56.00	56.77	−0.28
										41.37	38.00	39.25	−0.75
										47.00	44.90	45.80	−2.10
										77.99	74.69	77.92	+2.19
										39.31	38.34	39.13	−0.16
										19.53	19.30	19.41	+0.02
										10.30	10.20	10.21	−0.07
										20.60	19.60	20.50	+1.20
										44.20	42.59	44.20	+0.96
										39.50	38.92	39.49	+0.72
										45.65	45.06	45.35	−0.15
										11.08	10.92	11.00	−0.04
										59.95	56.50	58.06	−0.87
										82.35	81.14	81.72	−0.56
										67.80	66.61	67.65	+0.64
										17.07	16.27	17.04	+0.36
										30.53	29.93	30.14	−0.25
										61.85	60.60	60.87	+0.87
										59.40	57.36	58.61	+1.11
										32.10	31.04	31.20	−0.55
										31.20	30.70	31.07	+0.52
										41.50	40.75	40.90	−0.47
										19.65	19.38	19.65	+0.25
										58.90	55.95	58.56	+1.31
										48.50	46.35	47.00	−1.27
										18.05	17.42	17.84	−0.14
										43.75	42.70	43.00	−0.43
										13.90	13.80	13.87	−0.03
										32.65	31.80	32.20	+0.52

52 Weeks Hi	Lo	Stock	Sym	Yld Div	%	P-E	Vol 100s	Hi	Lo	Close	Net Chg
71.16	31.16	BlockHR	HRB	.84f	.9	23	4444	71.64	70.78	70.85	−0.19
22.00	6.88	Blkbstr A	BBI	.08	.5	dd	22549	17.80	15.05	16.02	−1.83
70.94	45.31	Boeing	BA	.66	1.2	15	25119	56.90	57.95	58.14	+0.03
38.00	21.75	BoiseCasc	BCC	.60	1.7	28	4783	35.88	35.10	35.16	−0.44
23.50	10.69	BordersGrp	BGP			...	69	10963	22.69	22.49	22.73	+0.26
51.90	31.00	BorgWarner	BWA	.60	1.2	23	1589	51.40	50.15	51.25	+1.09
44.06	36.00	BostProp	BXP	2.32f	5.9	19	1302	39.40	39.00	39.28	+0.10
20.79	12.19	BostSci	BSX			...	dd	9501	18.67	18.29	18.25	+0.10
58.75	42.65	Bowater	BOW	.60	1.3	...		5034	45.70	44.80	45.41	+0.58
12.50	7.88	Bowne	BNE	.22	1.8	dd		1071	12.00	11.90	11.93	+0.01
18.10	11.75	Brascan g	BNN	1.00g	...	...		949	17.69	17.18	17.61	+0.33
48.38	30.38	BriggsStrat	BGG	1.24	3.0	13		1265	41.95	41.51	41.70	−0.20
31.30	16.63	Brinkernt	BAT			...	18	10299	25.60	24.69	25.00	−0.92
s 74.88	48.06	BristMyrsSqb	BMY	1.10	1.9	23	32188	57.25	56.00	56.43	+0.16
30.00	15.40	Broadwing	BRW			...	dd	3131	24.75	24.10	24.74	+0.29
19.66	13.94	BrkfldProp g	BPO	.43eg	...	...		1677	19.47	19.33	19.39	+0.08
25.01	14.81	Brunswick	BC	.50	2.2	64		2674	22.61	22.15	22.23	−0.29
25.38	9.90	BuckTech	BKI			...	8	4306	12.95	12.50	12.76	+0.22
4.75	1.19	BudgetGrp	BD			...	dd	3434	3.44	3.25	3.44	+0.01
19.19	10.38	Buenavnt ADR	BVN	.21e	1.2	...		1574	17.39	16.89	17.35	+0.36
2.75	1.13	Burlgtnind	BUR			...	dd	1226	1.98	1.75	1.76	−0.16
34.00	20.38	BurlNthSF	BNI	.48a	1.8	13	21729	27.75	26.75	27.24	−0.27
53.63	32.50	BurlgtnRes	BR	.55	1.3	9	10617	43.39	41.77	43.28	+0.89
			-C-C-C-								
26.15	15.56	CANTV ADR	VNT	.63e	2.7	...		1434	23.94	23.25	23.50	−0.44
61.88	23.40	C&D Tch	CHP	.06	.2	13		2669	29.90	27.60	29.05	+1.53
31.20	22.44	CBL Assoc	CBL	2.13	6.9	13		1588	30.83	30.67	30.70	−0.04
55.50	27.25	CEC Entn	CEC			...	16	4439	35.15	34.72	34.93	−0.05
9.44	3.22	CGI Gp A	GIB			...	43	1332	5.71	5.60	5.64	...
136.75	86.86	CIGNA	CI	1.28	1.3	16		5030	100.19	98.21	99.59	+0.18
32.25	24.15	CMS Engy	CMS	1.46	5.4	42		4546	27.00	26.38	26.85	−0.10
39.88	29.19	CNF	CNF	.40	1.2	dd		2214	32.50	31.60	32.23	+0.23
n 22.00	15.70	CNOOC ADS	CEO			...	...	3919	20.25	20.04	20.23	−0.32
40.20	20.06	CSX	CSX	.40m	1.0	14		21117	39.89	39.25	39.78	...
59.00	18.00	CTS Cp	CTS	.12	.6	22		1125	22.10	21.60	21.76	+0.18
63.75	33.25	CVS Cp	CVS	.23	.6	19		64118	37.30	36.14	36.75	−0.46
56.75	14.03	CablWirels	CWP	.80e	5.3	...		3059	15.20	14.75	15.20	+0.91
s 29.75	10.65	CableDsgn	CDT			...	14	1610	15.90	15.39	15.40	−0.50
38.00	10.60	CablTrnSys	CS			...	dd	18200	19.77	19.10	19.70	+0.70
s 77.72	52.93	CablevsnNY A	CVC			...	8	3026	57.65	56.00	57.00	−0.43
n 28.00	19.00	CablvisnRainbw A	RMG			...	...	1050	27.00	25.80	26.30	+0.60
39.50	14.62	Cabot Cp	CBT	.52	1.4	8		2234	37.00	36.20	36.80	+0.40
34.35	16.94	CabotO&G	COG	.16	.6	10		1165	25.86	24.81	25.86	+0.96
32.69	15.90	CadenceDsgn	CDN			...	cc	8524	23.00	22.40	22.90	+0.55
9.44	4.75	CalgonCarb	CCC	.20	2.4	30	1284	8.32	8.00	8.17	+0.18
27.18	11.88	CallwyGlf	ELY	.28	1.8	13	3178	15.90	15.48	15.72	−0.06
s 58.04	29.00	Calpine	CPN			...	26	50080	38.25	36.60	37.90	+1.01
58.30	29.00	Cambrex	CBM	.12	.3	23	1161	46.99	46.35	46.71	−0.14
37.30	28.06	CamdnProp	CPT	2.44	6.7	21	1202	36.71	36.20	36.35	−0.36
35.44	23.75	CamplbSoup	CPB	.90	3.3	17	14969	27.60	26.64	27.01	−0.75
44.71	26.88	CanNtlRlwy g	CNI	.78g	...	...		2245	44.88	43.71	44.66	+0.26
43.63	25.19	CanadnPac g	CP	.56g	...	...		14654	36.84	35.86	36.75	+0.65
47.44	31.00	Canon ADS	CAJ	.19e	.6	...		850	34.75	34.35	34.40	−0.60
73.25	45.88	CapOneFnl	COF	.11	.2	25		9187	64.65	62.40	64.36	+1.66
s 25.85	7.88	CapstdMtg	CMO	17.80e	68.1	7		888	26.74	25.76	26.15	+0.42
s 77.32	46.00	CardnlHlth	CAH	.10f	.1	40		13087	71.08	70.10	70.44	−0.56
18.50	7.31	CaremarkRx	CMX			...	78	6056	17.17	16.97	17.05	−0.31
34.94	18.63	Carnival	CCL	.42	1.3	21		13784	33.70	32.51	32.99	−0.71
38.25	24.75	CarpTch	CRS	1.32	4.9	...		1015	27.70	26.99	27.19	−0.28
10.50	**3.63**	**CashAmInt**	PWN	**.05**	**.6**	**16**		**892**	**10.30**	**8.57**	**9.05**	**−1.12**
s 44.63	24.00	CatalinaMktg	POS			...	36	2806	34.75	33.44	34.52	+1.06
19.63	15.50	CatellusDev	CDX			...	20	1964	18.47	18.06	18.25	+0.16
56.63	29.00	Caterpillar	CAT	1.40f	2.7	20		22073	52.75	52.20	52.75	+0.18
115.00	24.00	CelGenApplera	CRA			...	dd	4218	31.99	31.05	31.40	+0.60
87.00	24.00	Celestica	CLS			...	50	18971	48.40	46.34	47.91	+1.66
28.30	17.13	Cemex ADS	CX	.96e	3.4	...		9229	28.21	27.70	27.95	+0.49
21.53	8.13	Cendant	CD			...	20	43685	20.92	20.32	20.82	+0.33
50.00	23.25	Centex Cp	CTX	.16	.4	8		7896	46.15	44.55	44.90	−1.39
23.31	15.75	CentlPrkng	CPC	.06	.3	17		1173	18.99	18.89	18.93	−0.07
39.88	25.25	CentTel	CTL	.20	.6	14		5812	31.70	30.88	31.22	−0.79
s 21.30	10.22	Ceridian	CEN			...	...	3879	17.95	17.46	17.46	−0.29
n 31.30	23.90	Certegy wi				...	...	2741	30.55	29.90	30.53	+0.60
11.94	2.31	ChampEnt	CHB			...	dd	3142	11.05	10.90	10.95	+0.04
36.00	**17.19**	**ChrisRvrLab**	**CRL**			...	**39**	**4954**	**31.50**	**28.80**	**28.88**	**−2.27**
32.98	19.88	ChrtrOneFnl	CF	.80b	2.5	15		5883	31.96	31.48	31.78	+0.28
32.18	26.00	ChateuCmnty	CPJ	2.18	7.3	23		1491	29.76	29.52	29.74	−0.03
17.80	**6.00**	**CheckptSys**	**CKP**			...	**33**	**2846**	**13.22**	**12.11**	**12.20**	**−0.93**
11.06	5.44	ChespkeEngy	CHK			...	2	19258	6.95	6.05	6.70	−0.20
98.49	77.63	Chevron	CHV	2.60	2.9	10		16468	91.19	89.07	91.10	+1.05
s 36.70	11.58	Chicos	CHS			...	29	3927	35.80	34.99	35.74	+0.13
43.50	19.11	ChinaMobile	CHL			...	...	4791	22.46	22.25	22.34	+0.08
25.94	10.00	ChnaUnicom	CHU			...	...	2123	17.14	16.87	16.96	+0.20
3.81	0.88	ChiquitaBrd	CQB			...	dd	1547	1.33	1.20	1.30	...
s 44.67	26.88	ChoicePt	CPS			...	40	3094	41.10	40.00	40.60	−0.54
85.31	61.13	ChrisCrft	CCN	stk		...	18	839	69.98	68.55	68.60	−0.65
90.25	63.30	Chubb	CB	1.36	2.0	18		7592	70.30	69.37	69.65	−0.15
11.88	3.88	CIBER	CBR			...	...	1377	7.50	7.36	7.45	−0.01
35.60	25.88	CINergyCp	CIN	1.80	5.9	13		3268	31.00	29.95	30.50	−0.17
20.50	3.25	CircCtyCrmx	KMX			...	29	3694	15.90	15.52	15.60	+0.10
28.38	8.69	CircCty	CC	.07	.4	36		15825	18.10	17.66	17.85	−0.07
59.13	39.00	Citigroup	C	.64f	1.3	19		73104	50.24	49.70	50.05	+0.05

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55.06	37.51	Delta
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15.88	9.29	Dept
43.44	19.10	Dist
18.80	11.63	Dev
41.50	28.00	Dev
45.49	32.13	Dia
s 41.78	17.81	Dig
17.00	9.88	Dir
47.94	27.92	Dr
36.38	22.94	Dt
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11.61	2.44	D
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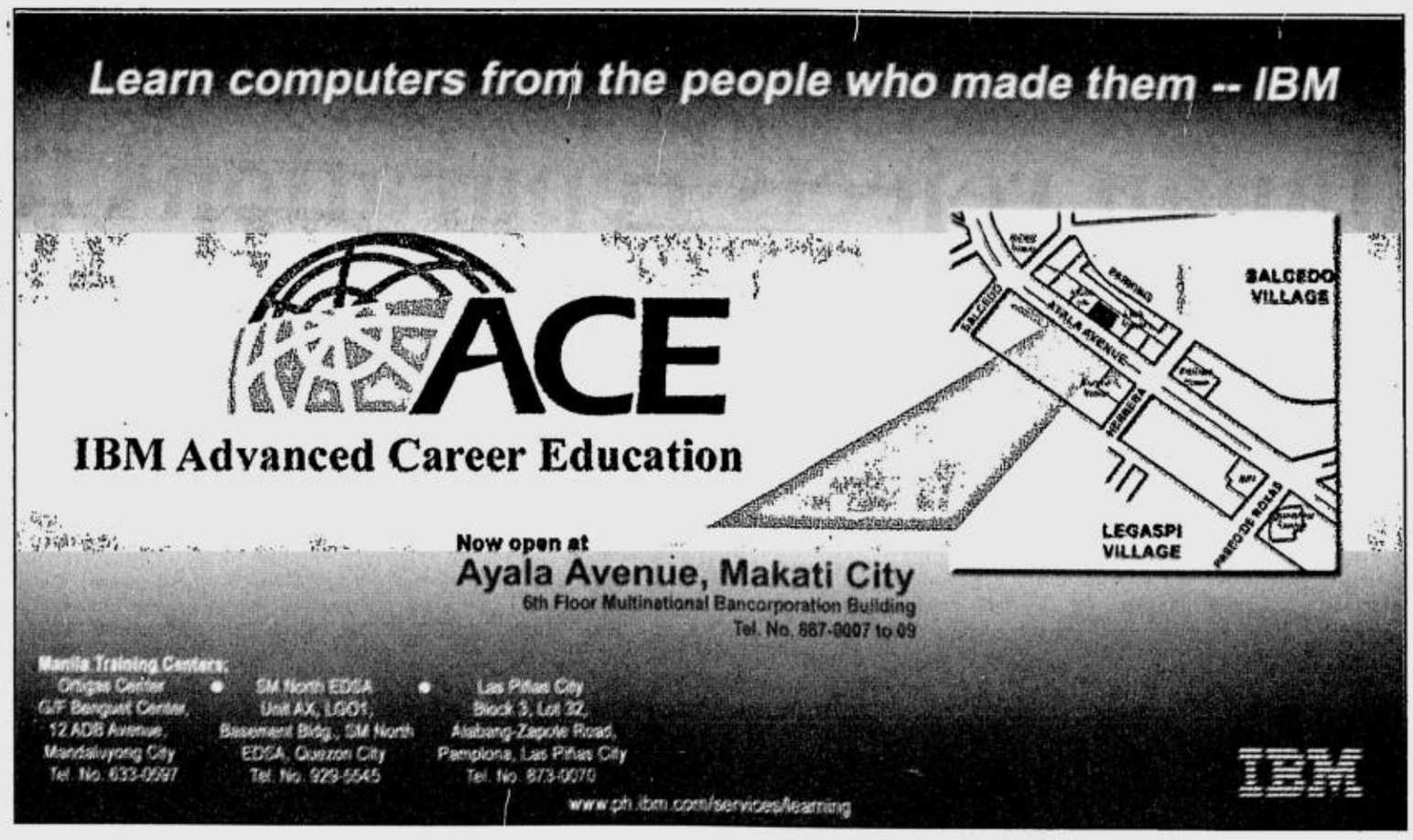
UNITED Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson (left) embraces South African Minister of Foreign Affairs Nkosazane Diamini Suma after her closing speech at the World Conference Against Racism in Durban Sept. 8. Diamini Zuma told delegates at the conference that a deal had been struck on slavery and confirmed that a row over the Middle East issue had been settled. REUTERS



UN race conference adopts text

DURBAN, South Africa—A UN conference on racism adopted its final declaration Saturday a day behind schedule after securing last-minute and hard-fought compromises on the Middle East and slavery.

Delegates adopted a text after eight days of tough and acrimonious talks in Durban, South Africa, that recognized the Palestinians' right to an independent state and described slavery as a crime against humanity.

The two issues have dominated the UN World Conference Against Racism and prompted the withdrawal Monday by the United States and Israel, which rejected originally proposed anti-Israeli language that they described as "hateful."

The final declaration from the conference is nonbinding, but has considerable moral force after being agreed by 168 countries.

"This is no small achievement," commented Mary Robinson, secretary general of the conference and UN high commissioner for human rights, at the final plenary session.

She added that the true success of the conference would be shown in how governments put their commitment to combat racism into practice. "We will not let governments off the hook," Robinson told a news briefing.

She described as "exhausting" but "worth it" the efforts to reach a consensus, something she said many people had questioned would be possible.

"The past has been very present in Durban," she added, saying the declaration dealing with slavery and colonialism was "historic."

At UN headquarters in New York, Secretary General Kofi Annan welcomed the agreement, saying failure would have "given comfort to the worst elements in society."

The United States, which along with Israel had pulled out of the conference, criticized the final document as flawed, but said it was worthy of consideration.

"We are disappointed that the conference that had an opportunity to address the issue of racism had become politicized," State Department spokeswoman Susan Pittman said.

"We are confident that our withdrawal was correct and hope that the decision had some effect on a better but still-flawed result," she said.

Britain's junior Foreign Office minister Baroness Valerie Amos said she was pleased that agreement had been reached, describing the conference as "an important opportunity for the international community to find ways of combating racism and xenophobia."

Round-the-clock negotiations between country delegations succeeded early Saturday in reaching compromise deals on how the conference should address the Arab-Israeli conflict and slavery in its final documents. *AFP*

Japan's yakuza increasingly going violent

TOKYO—Brawls in popular nightspots. Shootouts in the swank Ginza shopping area. Underworld headquarters riddled with bullets.

As police work to contain a power struggle within one of Japan's richest underworld syndicates, an unusual wave of high-profile gangland violence has gripped Tokyo.

Police refuse to discuss details, other than to confirm the number and locations of shootings. But experts say it underscores a larger concern—how a decade of crackdowns and economic hard times have made Japan's "yakuza" underworld increasingly volatile, and violent.

"These are desperate times for gangs," said Atsushi Mizoguchi, an expert on Japan's underworld. "With the economic slump, the police surveillance, the defections, it's blurred allegiances."

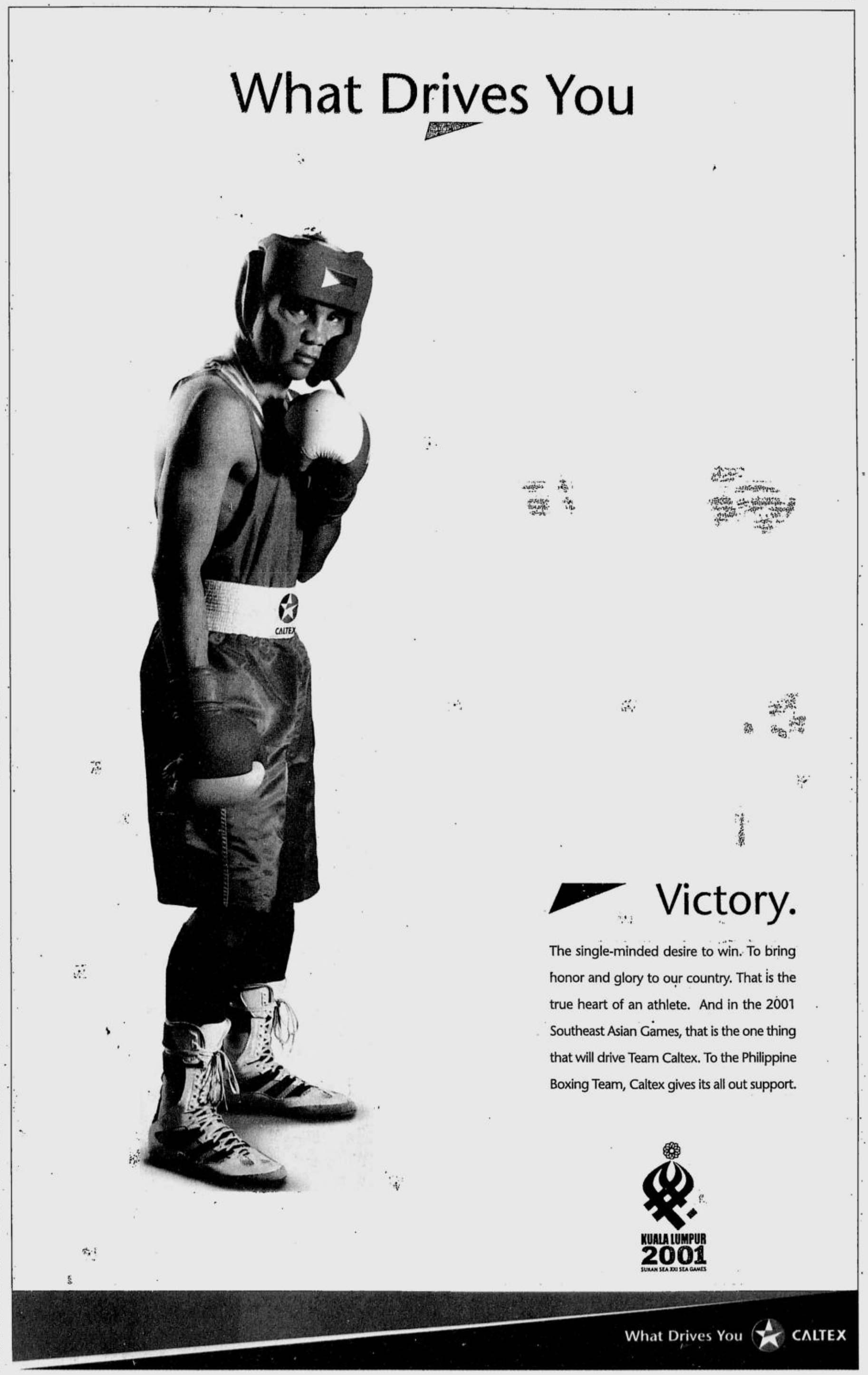
The current battle began in April, when more than a dozen empty shops and offices owned by outcast factions of the Kokusuikai syndicate were fired on in the late night and early morning hours.

So far, no one has been killed and no one has been arrested, though the violence continues.

Japan's crime syndicates are among the world's wealthiest, bringing in billions of dollars a year. Recent scandals have revealed close ties to Japanese police and prominent politicians, along with some of the country's biggest banks and brokerage houses.

Their core income is from extortion, gambling, the sex industry, guns, drugs and real estate and construction kickback schemes. They are also established in stock market manipulation and high-tech sectors such as Internet pornography.

Though gangsters in the past tended to avoid violence involving outsiders, such incidents are now on the rise as the underworld struggles to find its balance of power. In 1999, three shopkeepers were shot in a gang battle in Osaka, Japan's second-largest city. *AP*



Japan rejects reparations for war victims

SAN FRANCISCO—Japanese Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka apologized here Saturday to victims of Japan's wartime oppression, expressing "deep remorse" for Tokyo's actions a half-century ago, but ruling out financial compensation.

In comments made during celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of a landmark US-Japan peace treaty, Tanaka acknowledged that Japan wrought "tremendous damage and suffering" during the war, leaving "incurable scars on many people."

Tanaka echoed the unprecedented apology made in August 1995 by then-prime minister Tomiichi Murayama to Asian countries invaded by Japan during World War II.

"Facing these facts of history in a spirit of humility, I reaffirm today our feelings of deep remorse and heartfelt apology expressed in Prime Minister Murayama's statement of 1995," she said.

But Tanaka reiterated her position made in earlier appearances during this visit, that Japan would accept no World War II compensation claims.

"This treaty resolved all the post-war settlement issues among the parties, including Japan and the United States," she said. "Japan has faithfully implemented its obligations under the treaty."

The ceremony to commemorate the 1951 treaty was attended by US Secretary of State Colin Powell and other dignitaries at San Francisco's Opera House—the site of the original signing.

Outside the opera house meanwhile, hundreds of demonstrators noisily demanded compensation for Japanese atrocities and expressed their opposition to an article in the treaty in which allies waived all claims of reparations by their governments or citizens.

They argue that another clause, Article 26, allows for reparations. That clause states that if Japan struck a settlement with any other country better than the one provided by the US-Japan treaty, "those same advantages shall be extended to the present treaty."

At an earlier luncheon, Powell affirmed the US' support for Japan's position on compensation.

"The treaty that was signed 50 years ago brought that period to an end," Powell said after a working lunch with Tanaka.

"It is the United States' position that those claims were extinguished in the San Francisco treaty."

Powell's later speech at the Opera House was disrupted three times by hecklers complaining about AIDs funding and the compensation issue.

JAPANESE Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka offers an apology but rules out compensation to victims of Japanese wartime oppression during her remarks Sept. 8 in San Francisco at a ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the US-Japan peace treaty. AFP

"You had your moment, now give me mine!" snapped Powell, silencing the third heckler.

Powell praised the peace treaty for creating a US-Japan partnership that accounts for 40 percent of world economy activity, and a strong Japan that "can pull most of the boats of Asia in its wake." *AFP*

Extradition of drug boss won't dent cocaine trade, says top cop

BOGOTA—The extradition of reputed drug boss Fabio Ochoa to Miami—seen as a victory for US drug agents—won't put a dent into the world's flourishing cocaine trade, Colombia's top anti-drug lawman said Saturday.

"There are millions of consumers and thousands of people willing to supply that demand," Gen. Gustavo Socha, head of Colombia's anti-narcotics police, said in an interview.

OCHOA

Ochoa, who arrived in Miami early Saturday to face trial, was a leading member of the Medellin cocaine cartel, which waged a war of terrorism in the 1980s and early 1990s to pressure the Colombian government to bar extraditions to the United States.

The Medellin cartel had moved amateurish smuggling operations into the big leagues, delivering tons of cocaine to the United States by plane. But the cartel's heyday ended when its top leader, Pablo Escobar, was shot dead by police in 1993. The smuggling landscape has since changed dramatically, with no single gang being dominant.

The rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and their right-wing paramilitary foes control the production of cocaine by protecting and taxing farmers who grow cocaine-producing crops and clandestine processing labs.

The purified cocaine is then picked up by various smuggling groups for shipment abroad. The system works well: Colombia has for years supplied more than 80 percent of the world's cocaine. Despite strong cooperation in anti-drug efforts by President Andres Pastrana's government, no one has managed to break the country's domination of the trade.

US-backed anti-drug efforts, which will be examined by Secretary of State Colin Powell during a visit to Bogota next Tuesday and Wednesday, have had only mixed success.

A decade ago, the extradition of Ochoa would have provoked a terrorist backlash. Today, few expect a violent reaction.

"It would be very stupid for these narco-terrorists to do that," Socha said. "The courts have bent over backward to accommodate Ochoa's legal rights."

Still, the State Department warned Americans in Colombia to take safety precautions. The last attack thought to be in response to the government's extradition policy was in November 1999 when a bomb in Bogota exploded, killing eight bystanders. *AP*

Army sent to quell Nigeria violence

LAGOS, Nigeria—Nigeria's president called out the army Saturday to combat Muslim-Christian violence raging in a northern city, where terrified residents told of churches and homes burned and bodies piling up in the streets.

Authorities imposed a dawn-to-dusk curfew to quell the fighting, which erupted Friday night at the time of Muslim prayers—some said, when a Christian woman angered Muslims by trying to cross a street where Muslim men were praying.

One young man in Jos said he was part of a mob of Christians who killed 10 people and set their bodies on fire. He spoke by telephone on condition of anonymity.

The youth said he and others in the mob had asked passers-by, "'Are you Christian or Muslim?'" When the answer was Muslim, he said they fell upon their victims with knives, machetes and sticks.

There was no clear word on the death toll so far in Jos, a hilltop city of 4 million 1,000 km northeast of Nigeria's commercial capital of Lagos.

But residents cowering in homes with their families Saturday spoke of seeing dozens dead—and the bloodletting continuing. *AP*

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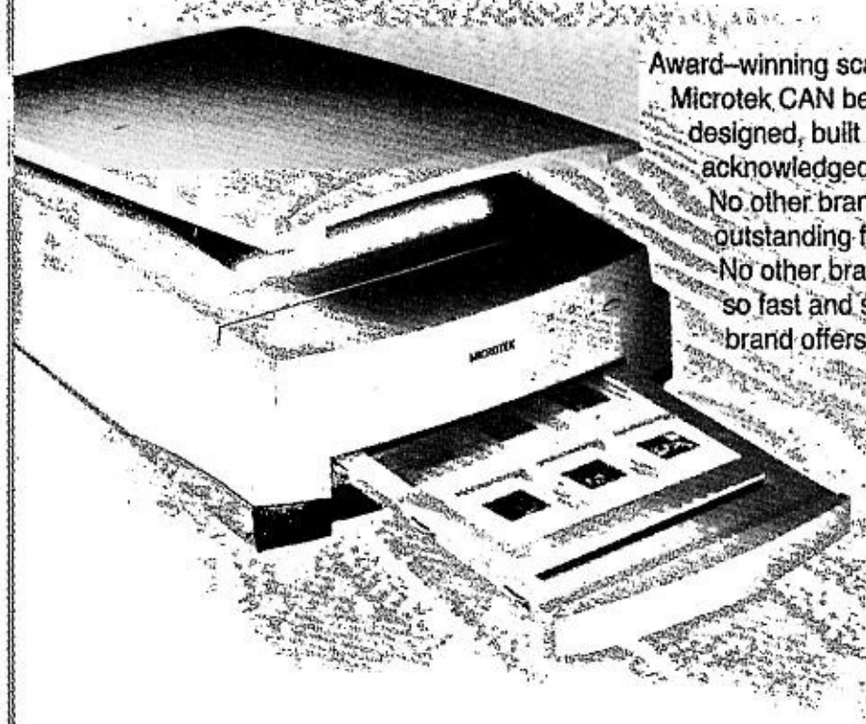

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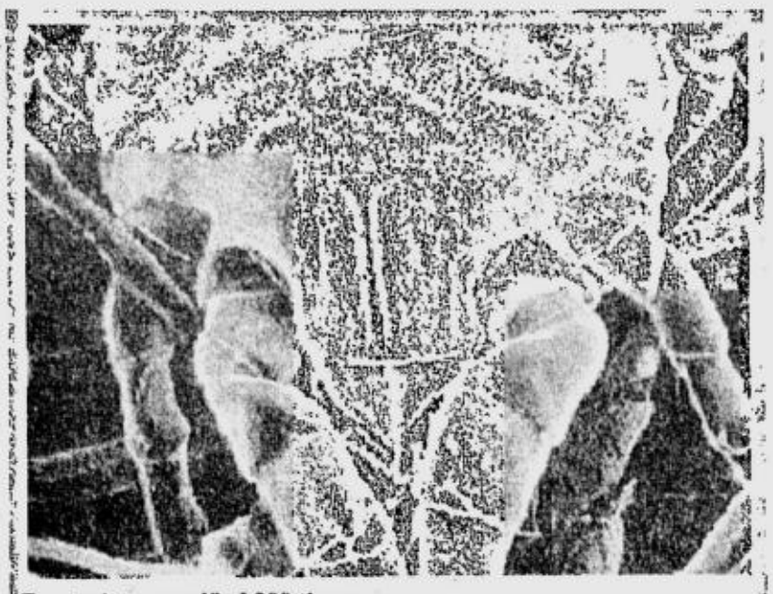


Dust mite, magnified 200 times

Indoor Air Pollution: what you don't know can hurt you...

HERE'S SHOCKING NEWS: Indoor air pollution can be as harmful as -- if not more harmful than -- outdoor air pollution.

Unknown to us, the air at home is teeming with millions of microorganisms and harmful substances unseen by the naked eye. A circus of dust mites, pollen, animal dander, molds, and harmful chemicals fill the air. If there's a lot of sneezing going on in a household, or if residents suffer from a variety of respiratory ailments - from asthma to rhinitis and chronic bronchitis - chances are, the air is polluted, or filled with allergens.

The best way to protect the family from the harmful effects of indoor air pollution is to use a high efficiency filter with your air conditioner so that the allergy-and-disease-causing microparticles in the air can be trapped and prevented from recirculating in the air.

3M Filtrete™ aircon filter -- one of over 60,000 high-technology products that 3M manufactures to make life easier and better for people around the world -- is a special filter with electrostatically-charged fibers that act like magnets to attract and trap airborne dust, bacteria, and other allergy causing particles.

Built-in aircon filters are designed to protect the aircon but do not purify the air or trap harmful allergens. High-efficiency aircon filters such as 3M's Filtrete™ Aircon Filters can trap microparticles like pollen, mold, lint and pet danders that aggravate and cause respiratory diseases, skin allergies and other discomforts 20 times better than ordinary screen mesh filters. They are so effective in trapping air pollutants that the American Lung Association has recommended their use for pollution-free indoor air.

By using Filtrete™ air filters, families can have pure indoor air for as long as two months under normal conditions -- depending on the amount of indoor air pollution present in the house. Smoking, ongoing construction, renovation and the presence of pets all affect the indoor air pollution level.

Families today tend to take the quality of the air they breathe indoors for granted. But maybe its time to be aware of the odds one faces at home. For instance, just one dust particle contains at least 40,000 dust mites that are known to be the most common causes of respiratory conditions like bronchial asthma and skin allergies.

Housewives must thus acquire the habit of attaching Filtrete™ high-efficiency air filters on their air conditioners because indoor pollution increases the risk of acquiring acute respiratory diseases that can kill us softly. This is especially true for babies and young children whose lungs are still developing and whose respiratory passages are narrower.

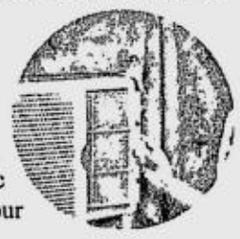
Filtrete™ Microparticle Aircon Filter, available at leading hardware retail stores and home improvement centers -- Ace Hardware, SM Workshop, The Landmark, True Value, Handyman and selected Mercury Drug outlets -- is so easy to use and lasts a long time. Truly, acquiring the Filtrete™ aircon filter habit is a solid investment for one's good health and wellbeing.

5 Easy Steps to Healthy Breathing

Doctors who specialize in respiratory diseases, allergies and skin diseases advise the general public -- especially asthma and other respiratory disease sufferers -- to get into the habit of using additional high-efficiency filters with their air conditioners.

Air conditioners do keep the temperature even around the house and reduce the humidity in the air, but they're not enough for keeping the air clean and free of dust mites -- the main source of allergens and other irritants that cause respiratory woes, skin irritations and allergies.

Pulmonologists, allergologists and dermatologists say it is not a luxury, but a necessity, to use additional aircon filters regularly with air conditioners. The American Lung Association (ALA) has recommended Filtrete™ high-efficiency air filters with electrostatic fibers for this purpose. Here are 5 easy steps to keep your indoor air clean and pollution-free with the use of Filtrete™ aircon filters:

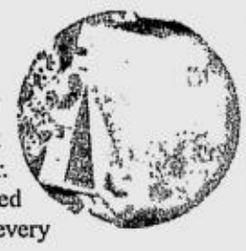


Step 1

Take your Filtrete™ Microparticle Aircon Filter with electrostatic fibers out of the box, get your pair of scissors ready and slide out your built-in screen mesh filter from your air conditioner.

Step 2

Cut the Filtrete™ filter to cover at least 3/4 of your built-in screen filter. Filtrete™ has electret fibers that carry a permanent electrical charge that attract matter -- airborne dust, pollen and other allergy-aggravating microparticles -- as air passes through it.



Step 3

Secure your cut Filtrete™ aircon filter onto the back of the built-in screen filter. A special 3M double-sided tape comes free in every Filtrete™ package.

Step 4

Now, slide back your aircon's built-in screen filter -- now with Filtrete™ high efficiency air filter -- into place and get ready to breathe the clean air your instant air purifier brings!

Step 5

Finally, attach the enclosed Air Quality Indicator on the aircon cover. This indicator is actually a pre-cut Filtrete™ high-efficiency air filter designed to aid you in telling the right time when to change your Filtrete™ air filters without having to open your aircon any more. If the filter strip turns black, its time to change your filter -- you'll be amazed at how excellent Filtrete™ air filters are in accumulating harmful microparticles! Check it periodically to ensure the quality of air that you breathe.

Under normal conditions, your Filtrete™ air filter will last as long as two months. Its life span can vary greatly on the levels of air pollution in your environment. Smoking, ongoing construction, renovation and the presence of pets all affect the indoor air pollution level inside your house and may make you change filters more often.

When you use Filtrete™ air filters, you turn your air conditioners into air purifiers too! Thus, regular use of Filtrete™ Microparticle Aircon Filter with electrostatic fibers helps safeguard your family's health from allergens that trigger respiratory conditions

Families laud 3M Filtrete™ aircon filter

In a city where air pollution exists even indoors, it is more difficult than ever to be able to breathe healthy and clean air. To remedy this problem, people in the know use high efficiency aircon filters in their air conditioners. The American Lung Association has recommended 3M Filtrete™ for this purpose.

Sufferers of respiratory diseases like asthma, rhinitis, and chronic bronchitis have noticed a remarkable improvement in their breathing after installing Filtrete™ aircon filter in their air conditioners.

One who benefited from using 3M Filtrete™ aircon filter is Dr. Bernardine Felix-Dungo. Her four children all suffer from non-seasonal forms of asthma, which she discovered, are provoked by accumulated dust. Her children's condition was aggravated when a house was constructed right next to their Las Pinas home.

"A lot of dust would accumulate inside the house, so we had to close the windows and use the aircon most of the time," Dr. Dungo noted. Dr. Dungo noticed that her children had frequent attacks of asthma. Even her husband suffered from coughs and colds, from time to time.

So Dr. Dungo decided to try 3M Filtrete™ which she found while shopping at SM's workshop section. After reading the information on the package, she decided to give it a try. " We have tried other 3M products before and we have always been satisfied with the excellent quality of their products," Dr. Dungo explained. Once 3M Filtrete™ high efficiency aircon filter was installed in their air conditioning unit, "Filtrete trapped a lot of the dust particles which lessened the respiratory symptoms of my children," Dr. Dungo said, very much relieved.

"My husband and I are glad we purchased Filtrete as we have seen how beneficial it has been, especially with regards to our children's health... We will continue to use Filtrete regularly," Dr. Dungo concluded.

How does 3M Filtrete™ help to ease the misery of asthma sufferers and those with other forms of respiratory ailments and allergies?

The Dungo Family.

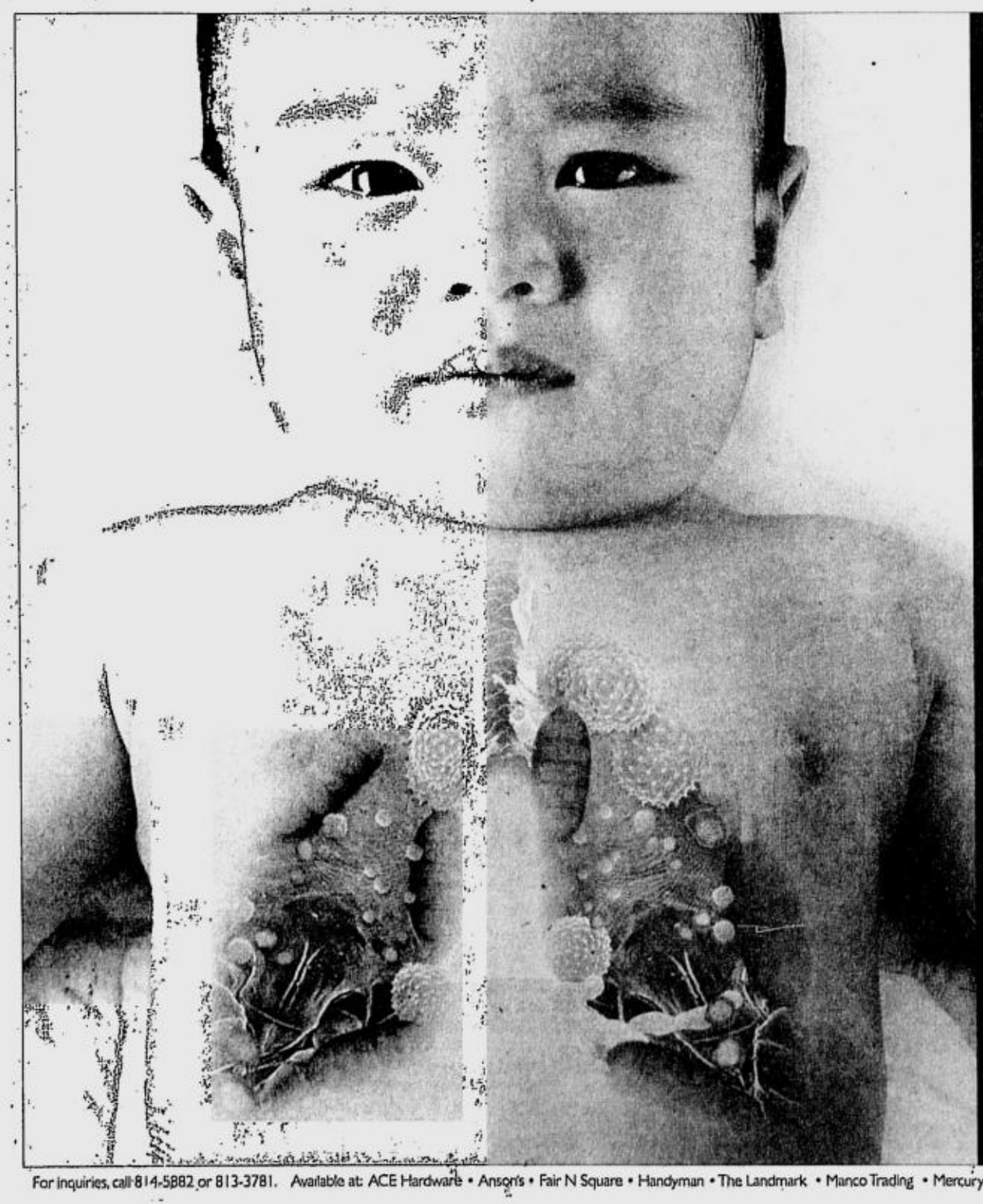
3M Filtrete™ high efficiency aircon filter is made of electrostatically-charged fibers that work like magnets to attract and trap microparticles. It prevents lint, mold, spores, smoke, and dust particles that cause asthma attacks, allergy flare-ups, headaches, and other respiratory problems, from recirculating back into the air.

Most built-in aircon filters can trap large particles. But microparticles like smoke particles and other allergens pass through easily so they are recirculated right back into your room. These harmful microparticles are the very "specialty" of 3M Filtrete™ high efficiency aircon filters. 3M Filtrete™ aircon filters just suck up these "unseen villains" and keep them jailed up in the filters.

Some parts of the metropolis are more polluted than others. That's why Remedios Datiles, homemaker, believes that Filtrete™ high efficiency aircon filter has done heavy duty work for their indoor air and has worked wonders for her child's health. "*Masyadong polluted dito sa amin sa Cubao. After using Filtrete, malaking naitulong sa aming pamilya. Hindi na gaanong sinisipon at inuubo ang anak ko. Hindi na rin kami madalas pumunta sa doktor,*" she happily announced.

Henry Sanchez, another satisfied Filtrete™ aircon filter user, said, "Filtrete has helped a lot in reducing the dust in our home. It has improved the health of my family and minimized the early morning sneezes of my daughter."

You too can discover what 3M Filtrete™ high efficiency aircon filter can do for you and your family. Start breathing fresher and cleaner air. For more information on healthy living, call 813-3781 or visit *www.3m.com.ph* and *www.lungusa.org*.



INDOOR AIR IS NOT AS CLEAN AS YOU THINK

Dust, pollen, plant and mold spores, and even bacteria can re-circulate in your home. A recent study by the Environmental Protection Agency says that the air we breathe at home may be two to five times, and occasionally, 100 times more polluted than the air we breathe outdoors. This could lead to health problems including asthma, severe chest pains, chronic bronchitis, shortness of breath, and even premature death. One way to reduce and control indoor pollution is to use Filtrete™ Aircon Filter with your air conditioning unit. Unlike ordinary screen filters, Filtrete™ Aircon Filter has electrostatic fibers that effectively attract and trap these microparticles. So you and your family breathe only cool, clean, and healthy air.

Filtrete™
Aircon Filter with Electrostatic Fibers
HEALTHY AIR FOR YOUR FAMILY

3M *Innovation*

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon and the Southern Tagalog region will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be cloudy at times with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Baguio	Cloudy with rains	Hi 23° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	Hi 31° Lo 21°
Laoag	Cloudy with rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with rains	Hi 29° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/09/10/01

New wave of evacuations hits war-torn Maguindanao

BY EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ AND BUTCH D. ENERIO
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Villagers of war-torn Datu Piang and Shariff Aguak towns in Maguindanao have started to evacuate after fighting between government forces and Moro rebels erupted anew.

Supt. Omar Pango Ali, police spokesperson in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said people who have fled after Army and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels clashed last week and returned to their homes four days later, were leaving again to ensure their safety.

Local police, military, civil defense officials and even leaders of the MILF have declared Datu Piang as "normal" after a weeklong fighting and worked for the return of refugees to their villages.

Family feud?

The MILF said the conflict was triggered by a family feud involving its field commanders. "It has been settled," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said last week.

But while the "normalization efforts" have been gaining ground, the military and the police have again harassed villages identified with the MILF on Saturday, the MILF claimed.

But police authorities have another version of Saturday's incident.

Ali, citing police reports from Shariff Aguak, said the skirmishes began when MILF guerrillas ambushed a joint team of policemen, militiamen and soldiers of the Army's 37th Infantry Battalion in the town's Barangay Pigeg.

The ambush and the ensuing firefight left an unidentified militiaman killed.

A member of the Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu), identified as Goroan Lindongan, said to be a relative of a town official, was rushed to the hospital for serious wounds.

Arrest warrants

Ali said the government forces were serving warrants of arrest to the suspected attackers of Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan two weeks ago.

The suspects were MILF Commander Manto Tambungalan, Kasan Inda, Mulodin alias Kadialen, Ustadz Motin Guiapar and 34 John Does who were believed responsible for the ambush on Ampatuan and his convoy that left nine people wounded.

"They (joint forces) were approaching the village at 8:30 a.m. when fired upon by Commander Manto's group, so a firefight started," Ali told the INQUIRER.

Ali said the arrest warrants would be served Monday or Tuesday.

The police will file complaints of violations of the ceasefire accord against the MILF before the GRP-MILF peace panels, he added.

But Kabalu said the soldiers and police have been harassing MILF units in the boundaries of Shariff Aguak, Datu Piang and Mamasapano towns. The MILF's 206th brigade covers the three municipalities.

Protests

Kabalu maintained that after last week's fighting, which, he said, claimed the lives of at least nine soldiers, the MILF would file a formal protest against the government.

"We are preparing separate complaints," he said, adding that skirmishes also broke out in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.

"It's moving from bad to worse," he said, referring to the implementation of the ceasefire accord.

Col. Santiago Prejido, chief of the 401st Brigade under the 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, said artillery assaults on an MILF camp in Barangay Tamparan in Munai, Lanao del Sur, would be temporarily halted.

Prejido said the lull would enable military authorities to reassess the situation.

He said they have recovered seven bodies of suspected MILF rebels who were among more than 150 new recruits of the 301st, 300rd and 309th brigades of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces.

The MILF units operate in Kauswagan, Munai and Piagapo towns in Lanao del Norte, and in Sultan Gumander, Madalum and Tagoloan towns in Lanao del Sur.

Destruction

"What the MILF is doing is a clear violation of the peace agreement where it is prohibited for them to consolidate their forces and establish camps," Prejido said.

The military also alleged that the MILF in the two Lanao provinces had destroyed infrastructure projects, which the government initiated after last year's war.

"They (rebels) have already blown up pipes of newly installed waterworks in those municipalities and are planning to burn the housing units that the government reconstructed for the war victims," Prejido said.

ROUNDUP

Eyeglasses for students

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The Helen Keller International (HKI) and the provincial government gave corrective eyeglasses to 42 pupils of the Lingayen Central Elementary School here. The pupils comprised the first batch of beneficiaries of the ChildSight program in Pangasinan, a pilot area of the HKI. The HKI is a New York-based non-government organization that aims to prevent blindness, restore sight and provide eye care. The next beneficiaries are students of the Pangasinan National High School here, the Sta. Maria Elementary School in Binalonan, and the San Manuel High School in San Manuel.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Robbers kill rookie cop

BAGUIO CITY—A policeman was killed Thursday by one of five armed robbers inside a bus bound for Metro Manila. PO1 Rex Cudangos, 25, of Sagada, Mt. Province, a rookie policeman assigned in Pampanga, died from a bullet wound in the head, police reports said. The robbers struck along the Marcos Highway in Pugo, La Union, an hour after the bus left Baguio at noon. Reports said three gunmen boarded the bus in Pugo, joining their two companions who came from Baguio. After shooting Cudangos, the robbers divested the passengers of cash and valuables and fled on foot.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Driver shot dead

SAN PABLO CITY—A motorcycle-riding man shot dead a jeepney driver who was plying his route here on Monday night. Police identified the victim as Ormel Alcos, 42, of Barangay Sto. Angel, this city. Reports said Alcos was driving with his wife beside him on Schetelig Street about 8 p.m. when he was shot point-blank for no apparent reason. The jeepney, with license plate no. DTY 143, collided with a tricycle before it turned upside down, causing injuries to Alcos' wife and the tricycle driver.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Powerless in Masbate

LEGAZPI CITY—Masbate City and the 20 towns of the island- province have no power supply since Aug. 31 when the power barge of the National Power Corp. was hit by a vessel. Three generator sets malfunctioned after the MV Palawan Princess bumped the barge while docking at the port, a report reaching the Inquirer said. Communications facilities were also affected by the power disruption. It is not yet known when the power supply will be restored.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Guard shots mom dead

ROXAS CITY—A security guard shot his mother dead on Monday after he mistook her for a thief. Killed on the spot was Termaliza Albaladejo, 47, who was hit in the chest. Her son Ronilo told the police that he mistook his mother for a thief when she peeped at his retail store shortly before midnight. Ronilo's house is just a few meters from his parents' house in Barangay Jolongajog, Pontevedra, Capiz.

Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

Ammonia leak downs 16

BACOLOD CITY—Sixteen persons, including eight children and a pregnant woman, were rushed to the hospital for severe vomiting and dizziness on Monday after they inhaled ammonia that leaked from a cylinder inside a barge at the Reclamation Area. City health officer Edilleon Isidto said the victims suffered from pneumonitis and could have died had they not been given immediate medical attention. A cylinder containing ammonia accidentally fell and hit the floor inside the barge, causing it to leak.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

2 NPA suspects killed

BACOLOD CITY—Two suspected communist rebels were killed and an Army soldier was wounded during an encounter on Friday in Barangay Amin, Isabela town, 82 kilometers south of here. Military reports did not identify the casualties. Two M-16 rifles and five handguns were recovered from the scene of the encounter. The reports showed that soldiers of the Army's 66th Infantry Battalion were on patrol in the village when they chanced upon a group of suspected New People's Army guerrillas.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Punctuality encouraged

MATI, Davao Oriental—Mayor Francisco Rabat said municipal employees should follow his example and report for work as early as 6 a.m. "I regularly report to the office at six in the morning. *Mahiya naman sila kung mauuna pa akong mag*-report *kesa kanila* (They should be ashamed if I report for work ahead of them)," he said. Rabat said the earlier the employees reported for work, the more people they would serve. But he clarified that observing the 6 a.m. schedule was not mandatory for the employees.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Pangasinan folk rally vs drugs

DAGUPAN CITY—At least 10,000 university and high school students marched around the city on Friday afternoon, calling for an end to the proliferation of illegal drugs, jueteng operations and prostitution in Pangasinan.

Similar rallies were held in Mangaldan, Malasiqui and Lingayen towns on the same day.

Agco Pangasinan, a group chaired by Archbishop Oscar Cruz of the Lingayen-Dagupan Archdiocese led the rallies.

For the past four weeks, Cruz, the immediate past president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, has sent pastoral letters to the parishes exposing and denouncing the proliferation of gambling and illegal drugs.

The letters also called on residents to join the rallies.

Local government and police officials spoke during the rallies and reiterated their campaign to stop the illegal activities.

They signed a declaration of commitment to stop vices and illegal activities. "Social ills have no place in the homes, neighborhoods, communities, municipalities and cities," the document read.

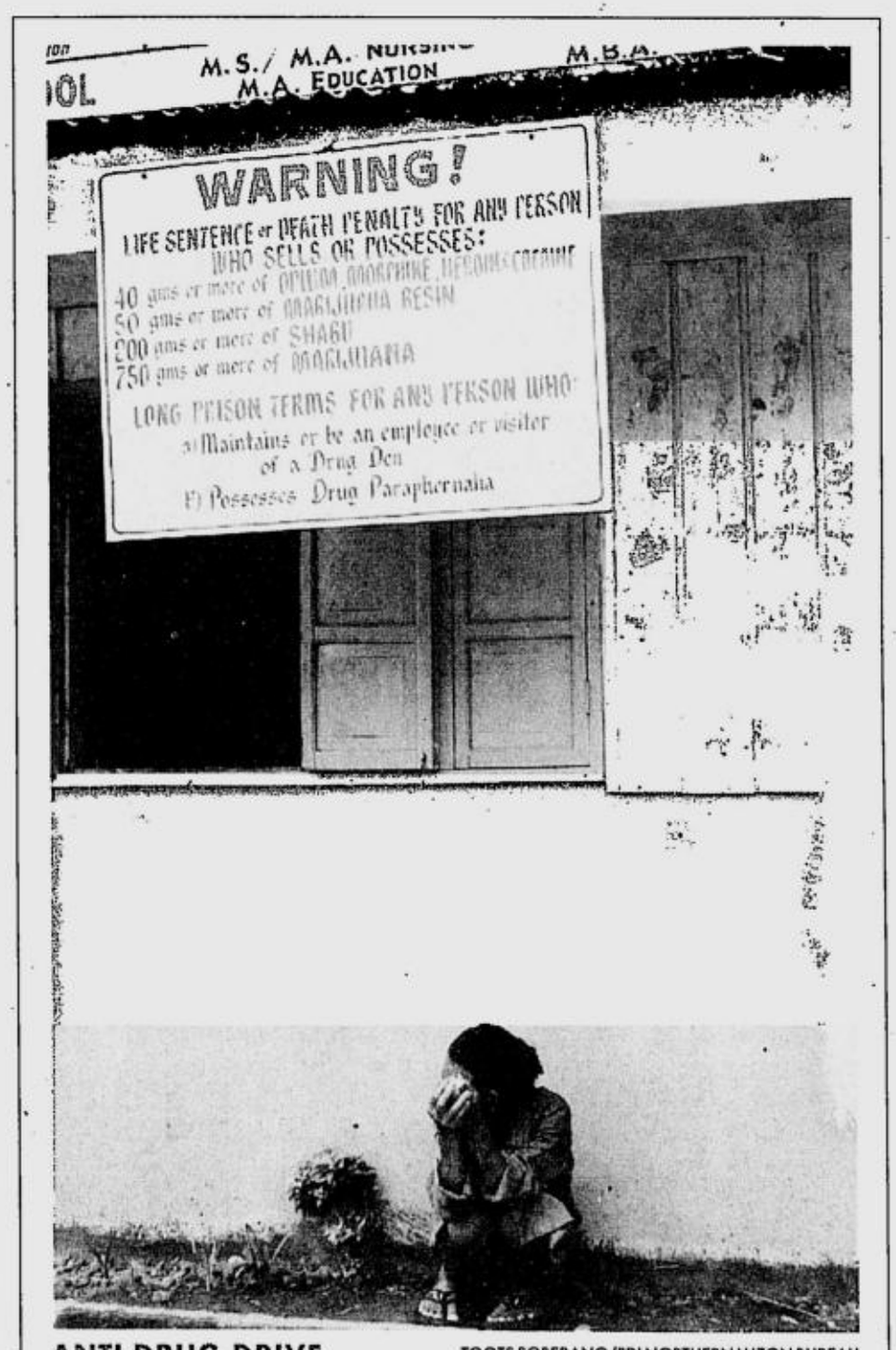
"We pledge our individual and collective efforts to establish jueteng-free, drug-free and prostitution-free communities where children can chart a peaceful, healthy and promising future," the declaration said.

In a Mass that followed the rally, Fr. Oliver Mendoza called on the youth to be "very angry" at the proliferation of the "three vicious evils."

"We have enough to fear because of the seeming permanency of drugs, jueteng and prostitution in our midst. But let us not fear, let us be courageous, hopeful and angry," Mendoza said.

"Let us be angry at the drug lords, gambling lords and flesh lords and their protectors, peddlers, pushers and pimps. They build their wealth by destroying lives and weakening morals."

Mendoza lamented that in a nation that prides itself of a rich Christian heritage, "life is so cheap, is cheapened and destroyed so easily." *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



ANTI-DRUG DRIVE TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Persistent rumors of a "Golden Triangle" for illegal drug trafficking at the boundaries of Ifugao, Mt. Province and Benguet prompted officials of Banaue town in Mt. Province to put up this sign.

Illegal drug trade alarms Ilocos police

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Calling it an alarming development, a top police official said shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), along with marijuana, was now being sold in the cities and towns of the Ilocos region.

Senior Supt. Enrique Villanueva, deputy police director for administration in Ilocos, said 100 milligrams to one gram of illegal drugs were being confiscated here daily, showing that drug pushers were making shabu more affordable to many people.

"Carrying (or selling) small amounts of shabu is also a way for the pushers to escape harsher punishment because being caught with at least 200 grams of the substance constitutes a non-bailable offense," he said.

He said it was difficult for drug pushers to sell a sachet of shabu costing at least P500. Hence, the new tack in selling it, he said.

"But what worries us is that more people, especially from low-income families, are now using illegal drugs," he said.

Villanueva said users included cockfighting aficionados, tricycle drivers, jobless adults, out-of-school youths and poor young people who want to stave off hunger pangs.

The cockfighting aficionados take shabu to keep themselves alert during derbies that are sometimes held all night.

Villanueva said shabu being peddled in Ilocos could have come from Metro Manila. He denied reports that Ilocos is a drop-off point for shabu smuggled from China.

He said village officials in Narvacan and Sinait towns in Ilocos Sur recently foiled attempts to land shabu in their coastal villages.

He said several villages here were "drug-infested" and that unless the community, police and other agencies work together to campaign against it, the drug menace will remain a problem.

Teachers of the La Union National High School asked police and city officials during a recent dialogue to administer drug tests in the school in order to find out if any of the 5,000 students is dependent on drugs.

With these tests, the teachers said they hoped that the pushers would not be able to victimize more students.

But Mayor Mary Jane Ortega turned down the request, saying the task would be "very expensive," considering the big number of students.

At least P300 is needed to conduct the drug test on each student.

Instead, Ortega urged parents whose children were showing signs of drug dependency to "surrender" them to the authorities so tests can be made and their rehabilitation can be initiated. *Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Police exec taps ex-CPLA rebs as anti-drug Cafgus

BAGUIO CITY—Former members of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA) will be deployed in marijuana eradication drives around the Cordillera's biggest plantations, police authorities said.

The move came despite reports that CPLA militiamen were responsible for growing marijuana.

"You can call them anti-narcotic Cafgus (Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Units)," Chief Supt. Virtus Gil, regional police director said Wednesday.

He said he had received reports that some of the rebel returnees were responsible for "this (marijuana), but I am hoping that with the signing of the administrative order (AO No. 18), we will see a reduction in marijuana production."

AO No. 18, which was signed on Sept. 1 by President Macapagal-Arroyo in Tinglayan, Kalinga, absorbs 264 militiamen into the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Militiamen, who fail to make the AFP grade, will be assigned to three paramilitary units in the Cordillera, or may retire with a livelihood package from the government.

Gil said he had opened his new quota of police recruits this year to the remaining CPLA militiamen or their qualified sons and daughters, although this is beyond the scope of AO No. 18. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

NIA plans early retirement of employees

NAGA CITY—The cash-strapped National Irrigation Administration is planning to prune 70 percent of its 20,000 employees all over the country under its ongoing restructuring program.

Ed Yu, NIA public relations officer in Bicol, said last week that the plan to restructure the irrigation agency is an alternative move in the wake of delays in the payment of irrigation fees.

He said 85 percent of the fund for employees' salaries came from irrigation fees. In Bicol alone, he said, unpaid irrigation fees had ballooned to P240 million.

Yu said several employees have agreed to the restructuring through an early retirement program rather than continue working without job security. Sixty-seven percent of the NIA workforce comprises employees who are at least 50 years old.

The national office is seriously studying the retirement program, which will give graduated benefits to each retiree based on length of service, Yu said.

The proposed retirement benefits include two months' salaries for every year of service for those who have been with the NIA for not more than 20 years and two and a half months salaries for those who have been in service for 20 years and not more than 30 years.

Three months' salaries were proposed to be given to those who have served for at least 30 years.

Yu said the delays in the remittance of contributions to the Government Service Insurance System since January had made it difficult for the NIA to provide salaries to its employees.

In Bicol alone, the NIA owes the GSIS some P12 million in employer's contribution, aside from nearly the same amount in employees' contributions.

But Yu said President Macapagal-Arroyo has approved P5 billion for salaries and GSIS contributions, which the Department of Budget and Management has yet to release.

Yu said employees' benefits, like salary loans, have remained suspended by the GSIS. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

NPA owns killing of ex-mayor

DAVAO CITY—Communist rebel leaders have admitted responsibility for the killing of a former mayor of Talaingod "as an act to end his corrupt practices and for violating the human rights of the *lumads* and the people" of the town.

Romano Paterno, spokesperson of the New People's Army's Ka Paking Guimbaolibot Red Partisan Brigade, said the death of former Mayor Jose Libayao should serve as a warning "to anti-revolutionary criminals and to those who are exploiting the poor people."

Libayao, who was succeeded by his wife as mayor, was abducted and killed by suspected NPA rebels in Sitio Cabadiangan, Barangay Sto. Niño on Wednesday.

Paterno said Libayao had been in the NPA's order of battle since September last year after "he was sentenced to death by a people's court."

The "revolutionary justice" rendered against Libayao was "based on the death sentence handed down by the people's court," Paterno said in a statement.

Among the victim's alleged anti-people activities were the launching of a "*pangayaw*" (tribal war) against *lumads* who fought the Integrated Forest Management Agreement awarded to the wood-based firm Alcantara and Sons. The agreement covered August 1996, to July 1999.

Paterno claimed that Libayao also connived with the Army's 72nd and 73rd Infantry Battalions in mounting a series of offensives that allegedly led to the killing of civilians Ubog Baledbiran in April 1996, Sangkoyog Lin-aw on Aug. 13, 1996, Makeling Agay on Dec. 15, 1996, and Luciano Juros on June 25, 1999.

In Caraga, Davao Oriental, 10 NPA rebels, led by a certain Commander Ronson, attacked the chair of Barangay Lumiawan on Wednesday.

The target, Gerardo Dumaan, was not hurt, but a militiaman, identified as Reny Banugan, was killed while another militiaman, Teodoro de la Peña, was wounded. *Ayan Mellejor with a report from Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

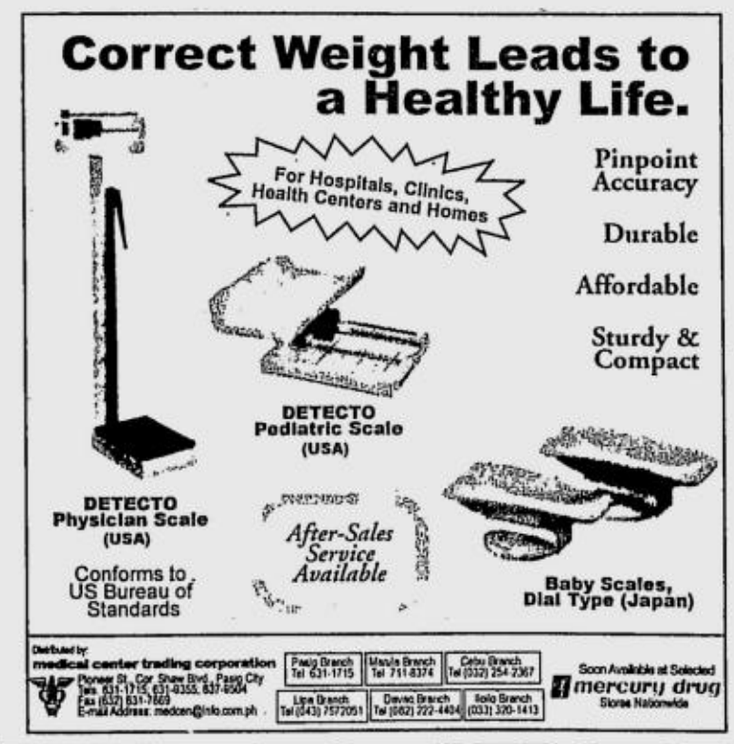
Dengue alert still up in Iloilo

ILOILO CITY—The dengue fever alert remains in Iloilo. The Provincial Health Office reported 18 new cases in August, bringing to 104 the total number of persons afflicted with the dengue fever since January.

Nine of the 10 towns with the most number of dengue cases are in southern Iloilo, according to the PHO report dated Sept. 3.

On top of the list were Tigbauan and Tubungan towns with nine and eight cases. Seven cases were reported each in Guimbal and Oton, and six in Igbaras.

The only northern town listed was Sara, which has six cases. *Ma. Diosa Labiste, PDI Visayas Bureau*



Priest asks: 'Can't stand the heat?'

(From page A1)

Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), shared Caluag's theory.

Jimenez said the senator could use his connections in Hong Kong and the United States in coming up with fabricated pieces of evidence to destroy Ong's credibility.

"Rosebud has already established her credibility," the VACC chief said. "On the contrary, Lacson has not a single drop of credibility. He's a badly beaten man and it would only be a matter of time before he falls."

At an assembly of Katotohanan at the Ateneo de Manila University, Ong said she was not surprised that Lacson left the country for Hong Kong and the United States.

She said she did not know what Lacson was up to abroad.

Paper trail

But Ina Silverio, Bayan Muna information officer, said Lacson might be trying to destroy his paper trail.

She said Lacson was getting desperate because he was finding it difficult to debunk the exposés against him.

"He just might do something drastic to save his hide. He has the money, influence and ruthlessness to do just anything," Silverio said.

Bayan Muna and other militant groups called on the government to issue a hold-departure order on Lacson and to charge him before the courts with money laundering and other high crimes.

"He's up to no good. The government should act now and file criminal charges against him," Silverio said.

Lacson hied off to Hong Kong a day after he lamented that his accusers were cruel to him.

He said the allegations against him were politically motivated.

Ong said it was quite exasperating to answer what she said was self-serving statements of Lacson.

In a text message, she said she was preparing a "chart with documents" linking the former PNP chief directly to his alleged illegal activities.

Truth hurts?

On Lacson's statement about the cruelty of his accusers, Ong said at the Katotohanan forum: "How can I be cruel when I am just telling the truth?"

She said she exposed the alleged criminal activities of Lacson and his men because she wanted the truth to come out.

For his part, Arno Sanidad, counsel for witnesses in the 1995 Kuratong Baleleng rubout case, said, "Cruelty is a senator getting away with murder."

A petition to reopen the case has been filed before the Supreme Court.

Through text messaging, Sanidad said: "It's more cruel to the Filipino people to have a suspected murderer of 11 alleged Kuratong Baleleng members sit in the Senate."

In previous interviews, Sanidad had said the Kuratong Baleleng case against Lacson and his associates was the strongest case against the former PNP chief.

Ong said she had no political motive in exposing Lacson.

The former anti-narcotics agent noted that she initially came out with her exposé last year while Lacson was still the PNP chief and his benefactor, former President Joseph Estrada, was still in office.

"I asked for help then from so many people. I even approached 10 senators. But they were only able to help me to some extent," Ong said.

Ping flies to US, creates stir

LACSON

(From page A1)

of his boss and is already in the United States, according to the staff member.

Curiously, both Lacson's friend and the staff member said that Cavite Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi accompanied Lacson on the flight to Hong Kong, but the governor's name was not on the manifest.

Contacted for verification, a Cavite capitol official said Maliksi is now in the United States on a trade mission with other governors from the Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon) region. He left on Sept. 3 and is expected back on Sept. 17, the official said.

Lull in hearings

Lacson's unannounced departure came two days after the Senate went on recess, and a few days after three committees suspended their investigation into his alleged involvement in such crimes as money laundering, drug trafficking and kidnapping.

A number of senators have already left Manila on vacation since the Senate went on break.

Military intelligence chief Victor Corpus has accused Lacson of stashing drug and ransom money in at least eight bank accounts in the United States, Canada and Hong Kong, but US officials have reportedly confirmed only one Lacson-owned account containing $24 million in a Citibank branch in San Francisco.

However, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reported in April in a confidential letter to the National Bureau of Investigation that Alice had two checking accounts with "large" balances and two savings accounts with "small" balances in US banks.

No mention of travel

Wong, for his part, has been tagged by Corpus as Lacson's contact to a Hong Kong triad.

Wong, who owns a few restaurants and a garments firm, departed from Manila aboard a Philippine Airlines flight for Hong Kong on Friday afternoon.

That evening, Lacson treated Senate reporters to dinner at one of Wong's restaurants, but made no mention of any travel plans.

Wong made an earlier trip to Hong Kong on Aug. 14 after Corpus first accused him of being a drug lord. But he returned on Aug. 22 to appear before the Senate the next day to deny the allegation.

So far, Corpus' witnesses, including ex-narcotics agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong, have yet to provide hard evidence of Lacson's alleged involvement in various crimes.

Lacson, who told reporters on Friday that the controversy was taking its toll on him, has repeatedly and vehemently denied the charges. He has also accused Corpus and other Macapagal administration officials of orchestrating a political hatchet job against him. ***With a report from Cathy C. Yamsuan***

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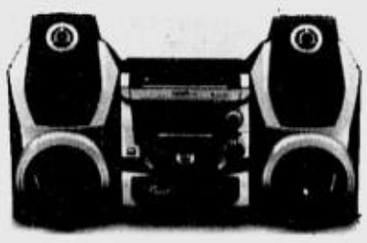

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Allegations against Ping concern nat'l security

(From page A1)

already weakened structure of that institution.

On the other hand, the PNP is in turmoil over the activities that took place inside the organization during Estrada's time and Lacson's leadership.

These activities have been coming to light in the Senate investigation of Lacson's alleged criminal activities.

More evidence is needed to strengthen the military intelligence service's case against Lacson. But what a parade of witnesses has so far disclosed is enough to spark calls for Lacson's resignation or his expulsion from the Senate.

The hearings have also cast doubt on the Senate's capacity to discipline its own member who is at the center of the investigation over alleged drug trafficking, money laundering, illegal wiretapping and involvement in kidnap for ransom.

No conspiracy

No senator in the history of that body has been more embroiled in serious allegations of wrongdoing than Lacson, and he should not and cannot blame an imagined conspiracy to "demolish" him politically for this "cruelty" of politics.

The truth is that dossiers linking him to alleged drug trafficking and money laundering have flowed to the Intelligence Services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) long before the May elections when Lacson still headed the PNP.

The reason why these were not disclosed at the time was that disclosure might be seen as a demolition job since he was running for the Senate and there was a need for continuing undercover operations to confirm raw information.

The thrust of the information was that it foreshadowed a serious national security problem—not a problem of enhancing or destroying anyone's electoral chances in 2004.

For Lacson to say that he is being "singled out" for demolition for political reasons is to claim much importance for himself as a key political player in 2004.

Lacson must first survive the heat of the Senate investigations before he could be considered the man of the hour for 2004.

The Senate inquiry into the allegations against Lacson has had several consequences.

- The Senate's credibility as an independent assembly is on trial, given that Lacson's electronic wiretapping is alleged to contain conversations of then opposition figures involved in the impeachment trial.
- Witnesses have revealed the scale of the PNP's alleged involvement in drug trafficking.
- A cleavage has opened between the Senate and the AFP leadership, which has closed ranks behind the Isafp head, Col. Victor Corpus.

The Senate is confusing the AFP from a position of weakness. The Senate survived Estrada's fall heavily damaged, and Lacson's insertion into the chamber converted the Senate into his sanctuary, aggravating the divisions inside the body.

Military

On the other hand, the military intervened at the height of the Estrada crisis, with then Gen. Angelo Reyes, pulling the chain of command behind the decision to withdraw support from Estrada.

During the military mutiny in February 1986 that sparked the People Power Revolution and in the seven coup attempts against the Aquino administration, the divisions and armed clashes between loyalist and rebel military troops caused ruptures within the AFP.

If the transfer of power in January 2001 was bloodless, the explanation is that the AFP mainstream and leadership were cohesive, thereby preempting adventurism by some military plotters who planned actions against Estrada but could not muster support from the troops.

The main lesson that emerged from the crossover of the military demonstrated in the crisis that it is a modern, bureaucratic and professional institution that rose above personalistic loyalty to Estrada.

Estrada pampered the military during the war in Mindanao, lavishing soldiers with entitlements. He was also close to Reyes.

But then came the test on where the military's loyalty lay—the higher interest of the State or personal gratitude to Estrada. The chain of command resoundingly chose the interests of the State, and rejected Estrada.

The Senate majority, on the other hand, had different priorities. During the vote on the second envelope, the majority opted to seal the envelope. The closure sparked the conflagration of People Power II and shattered the people's confidence in the constitutional process of impeachment.

Supreme Court

If there was one institution that saved Philippine democracy from total breakdown, it was the Supreme Court. The authoritative, even-handed and decisive leadership of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. during the impeachment trial highlighted the high court's critical role in saving democracy when the legislature, the bureaucracy, the police and the political parties were all undermined by Estrada. The high court has upheld the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

If the AFP is solidifying behind Corpus and his intelligence investigation of Lacson's activities, it is sending the signal that in its own assessment, the allegations against Lacson concern national security—not a trivial and partisan case of political "demolition."

Karate athletes bag first 2 RP golds for RP

(From page A1)

gold in the 1999 Asian Karate Foundation championships in Seoul, South Korea.

The 5-foot-8 Pabillore fought back from a 4-7 deficit to tie Dam at 7-7 at the end of the three-minute round and force two extensions.

He was finally adjudged winner by superiority to the delight of his teammates, the majority of whom dyed their hair blond in a public display of their determination to shine in this event in spite of karatedo leadership problems back home.

Being a police officer, Pabillore is prohibited from coloring his hair, while Malalad chose a silver streak.

Their victories assured them of no less than P200,000 each in incentives from the Philippine Sports Commission and the government.

With a 2-3-6 gold-silver-bronze count, the Philippines is in fourth spot, behind surprising Vietnam (3-2-8) and Indonesia (3-5-6) as of 7 p.m.

Host Malaysia, powered by its big showing in karate and gymnastics, has pulled away with 12 golds, 3 silvers and 4 bronzes. Defending overall champion Thailand is a disappointment with a 1-6-3 tally.

While Malaysia is happily increasing its gold medal collection, Vietnam, host of the 2003 Games, is earning second looks with its surprising showing.

The shocker of the night happened in boxing where Brunei SEA Games titleholder Juanito Magliquian suffered a tearful 10-11 setback to Thailand's Pongrayoon Keaw in the quarterfinals of the 45 kg class.

Junie Tizon also bowed to another Thai Dechapon Suwunalind in the 71 kg class.

Lost by a point

Over at the Subang range, former world speed shooting titleholder Jethro Dionisio missed a golden opportunity when he lost by a point to Singaporean Kwa Eng Cheong in the individual trap competitions.

The Filipino bet, along with Eric Ang and Jaime Recio, also settled for the silver with a 325 total in the team trap competitions.

Lily So also emerged silver medallist in wushu (women's nangquan) won by Myanmar's Ma Swe Swe, while taekwondo jin Kalindi Tamayo bowed to Thailand's Nootcharin Sukkongdumnoen, 6-1, in the women's featherweight final.

Sydney Olympian Jasmin Strachan lost to eventual gold medal winner Elaine Teo of Singapore, 5-1, consoling herself with the bronze in women's bantamweight.

Taekwondo also produced bronze medallists in Manuel Rivero (men's bantamweight) and Jefferson Go in men's featherweight. Brunei gold medallist Ryan Bonifacio Mariano salvaged the bronze in men's individual kumite (-75 kg) topped by Malaysian Rayner Kin Siong.

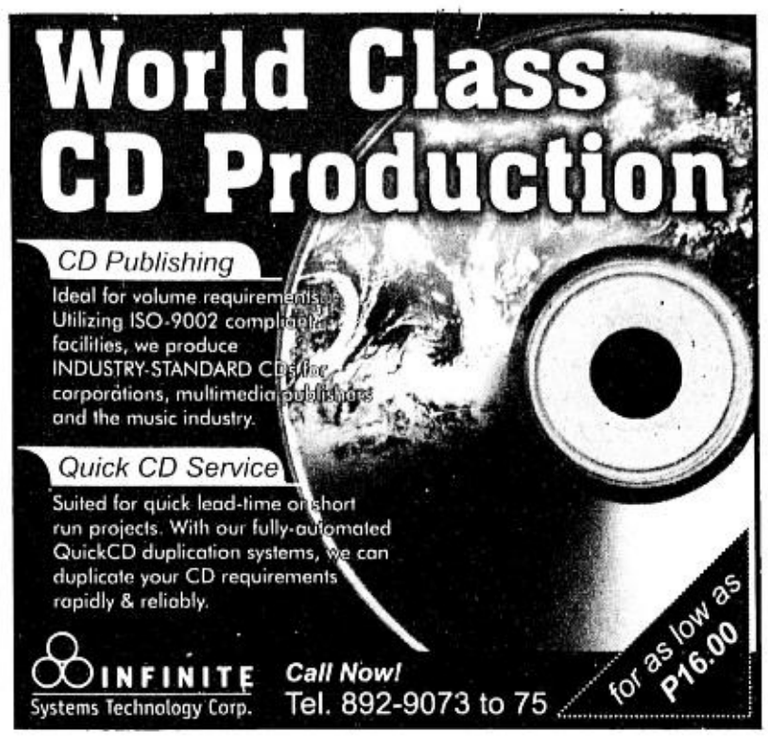
The search for golds continue to be frustrating for Filipino gymnasts as the women's artistic team could only finish third behind gold medallist Malaysia and silver medal winner Thailand.

Reigning Asian champion Marlon Manalo and Benjamin Guevarra settled for the silver medal in the snooker doubles event, bowing to the Thai pair of Praprut Chaitanasku and Somporn Kunthanweng, 3-2.

Olympic swimmers Carlo Piccio and Lizza Danila finished second in their events, while Luica Dacanay came in third.

In wushu, Willie Wang pocketed the bronze in men's jianshu.

In women's basketball, the Philippines drubbed Vietnam, 124-57.



Pinatubo or 'Pinatulo'?

(From page A1)

should be held in respect and must not be the subject of jokes.

"And don' ever, ever call it Mt. Pinatulo!" Cariño, 48, warned.

On Thursday, he raged as television and radio broadcasters, in an attempt perhaps to lighten the anxious mood in Botolan, floated the idea of renaming the volcano Mt. Pinatulo, referring to the draining of water from the volcano's crater-lake.

Its near-filled, 3-kilometer wide crater-lake was drained of water to avert a crater wall collapse. The escaping water might let out a flash flood that could trigger lahar avalanches to Botolan's 18 villages. Nothing of this grim scenario happened, though.

"Pinatubo is the name of our sacred mountain," Cariño, also one of this town's few Aeta policemen, reasoned in Filipino.

Pinatubo, according to him, still means "where things grow."

"Wait for more years and you'll see that the land will be fertile again," he said, referring to the June 1991 eruptions that dumped thick ash, sand and other sediments that burned the volcano's forests and animals, buried outlying farms and destroyed rivers.

"It must be Pinatubo. Just because it was drained (of water) does not mean its name will be changed to record the event," Cariño said.

"Pinatulo," according to him, sounds malicious.

Mountain deity

The 1,400-meter volcano is also home to Apo Namalyari, the mountain deity. The name also beams a nurturing message, "He who makes everything possible."

Pinatubo is also the ancestral abode to one of the country's biggest groups of Negrito tribe.

The Aetas of Pinatubo—those on the Zambales mountain range in the boundaries of Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales—counted more than 50,000 before the eruptions, according to the National Commission on Indigenous People.

It must be because of the environment that was not yet hostile to agriculture that allowed the Aeta population to grow and survive despite the scarce medical services from the government.

Cariño said the tribe related to the volcano only through that name.

"Those of us who have friendly guide spirits (*anito*) gather together during drought, typhoons and other fearful events in a *gayang* (big, solid rock) at Pinatubo to offer an *atang* (offering) of candles made of honey wax and pigs," he recalled.

Or wherever they are, they look to the west in the direction of Pinatubo to say their *dururo* (prayers) to implore the deity's aid in times of difficulty.

"The elders will get angry if the name is changed. We won't change it for anything because that's part of our beliefs," Cariño explained.

Changing the name of the mountain, even out of humor, will strip it of its meaning in the lives of the Aetas.

"Pinatubo, that's the name our ancestors called the mountain," he said. "It will have to be that way for the next generation."

Pinatubo isn't only a geological site or a favorite destination of natural history buffs. It was, according to historical accounts, their refuge against Spanish and American colonization.

It was where the Americans established camps against the Japanese Army during World War II, dragging the Aetas in a war they never wanted.

Of course, the most famous event that drew worldwide attention to Pinatubo was its 1991 eruptions, one of the world's most violent blasts in the 20th century.

Cleanup

On Saturday, Aetas on the Tarlac side of the volcano began clearing the crater area of trash generated during the canal construction since Aug. 23.

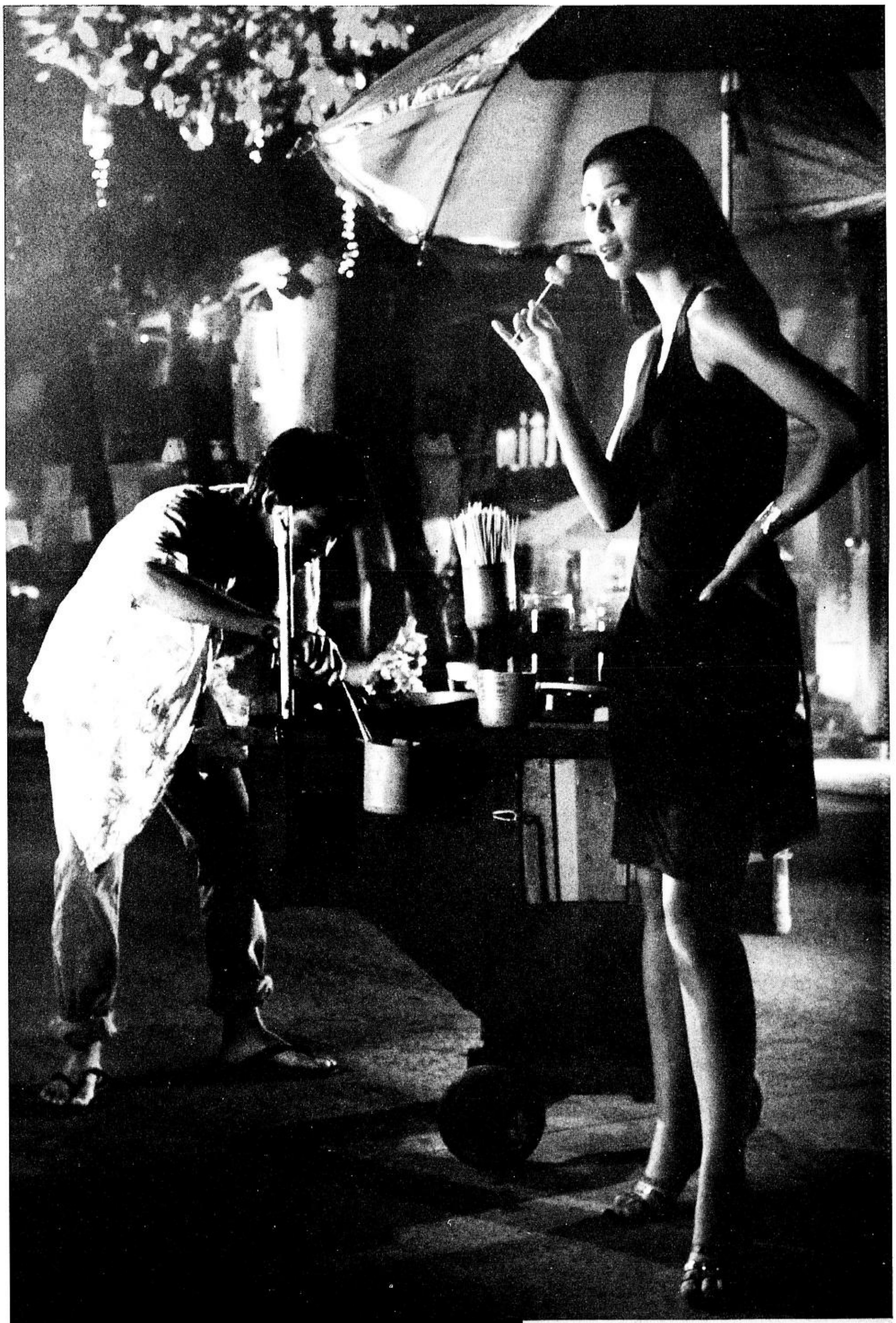
The trash consisted of empty cans of sardines, plastic noodle packs, soap boxes and cigarette butts, according to Nelson Pangilinan, chief of the Tarlac Aeta Association.

The cleanup intends to preserve the volcano as a tourist destination that Barangay Sta. Juliana in Capas town has earned from.

The Aetas earn from working as mountain guides or porters. The income is often used to buy tools and seeds for farms that are being revived in the mountains.

Pangilinan said it was "contemptuous" of broadcasters to be calling their mountain "Mt. Pinatulo."

"It's not funny, not even amusing. It's disrespectful," he said.



Inquirer cartoonist Abrera wins prestigious book award

BY AGNES DONATO

IF THERE is one thing the past four Presidents have all succeeded in doing, it is tickling the funny bone of INQUIRER editorial cartoonist Jess Abrera, the proud new owner of a prestigious book award.

For the second time, Abrera, 56, won the annual Manila Critics Circle National Book Award, this time for "The Best of A. Lipin: Cartoon Strips, 1985-2000," a compilation of selected samples of his daily cartoon strip in this paper.

"I thank our presidents who did very well in making their administrations funny. If they didn't make such caricatures of themselves, I wouldn't have anything to portray in my work," Abrera said, tongue in cheek, in an interview.

But the silver-haired, quick-witted artist stressed that there was "nothing personal" in his depictions of former Presidents Ferdinand Marcos, Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada.

"It is not the personalities that I am criticizing, but the situations. Also, I believe that when I put these people in my comic strips, they cease being themselves. They become characters in my cartoons," he explained.

Smiling from ear to ear, Abrera accepted the book award along with other winners at the SM Megamall Megatrade Hall on Saturday night.

The critics' circle cited his book "for its manifestation of the saving grace that is humor" during "the tenure of four very funny presidents indeed."

For 15 years, Abrera has given nearly free rein to his sense of mischief while churning out his cartoons—and he has had plenty of grist for his humor mill. "This is a field where you can never run out of ideas. There is just too much politics happening in our country," he said.

The artist, the creator of "Guyito," the INQUIRER's carabao mascot, said he usually bases his cartoons on the paper's headlines, especially when there is a running story.

"But there also comes a time when the news stories do not make interesting material for cartoons, so I focus on other issues like women's rights, labor issues, even the life of '*kalabaw*,'" he said.

Abrera revealed that it was easier to create the cartoons than to choose which ones to include in the compilation.

The "A. Lipin" strip was created when the INQUIRER was born in 1985. In its infancy, it was used as a "filler" for the news pages.

Abrera said the strip was originally supposed to be called "Alipio A. Lipin," but INQUIRER editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc thought the name was too long. So Abrera decided to settle on "A. Lipin," a play on the Filipino term for "slave."

"Activists then used to describe many aspects of our society as 'alipin'—the Filipino people as the slaves of the dictatorship, Marcos as a slave of the Americans, and the entire Philippine society as a slave of the American culture," he explained.

"Even now, I think that we are still slaves in various ways—slaves of the Western culture and of material things," he added.

After receiving the award, an obviously overwhelmed Abrera had only thankful words for God, his family, friends and the INQUIRER, saying he was grateful for an "overflowing of blessings" in his life.

"I didn't expect to win. Frankly, the mere fact that the book was published at all was already an award by itself," he said.

"The Best of A. Lipin" was published last year by Inquirer Books and Anvil Publishing.

2001 TOFIL Award Search Ends

The TOFIL 2001 National Committee wishes to announce that the 2001 Search for The Outstanding Filipino (TOFIL) Award has ended August 31, 2001. All nominations submitted as of the said date are now subject for review by the Screening Committee. Winners will be announced in time for the Awarding in December 2001.

AFP probers say Villanueva contributed to Lamitan fiasco

(From page A1)

By 9 a.m., Col. Jovenal Narcise, commander of the 103rd Infantry Brigade, radioed Maj. Daniel Lucero, head of the 18th IB, to move the bulk of his forces from Tuburan to Lamitan. Tuburan was the scene of the first encounter between the military and the Abu Sayyaf on June 1.

Narcise directed Capt. Hubert Acierto, intelligence and operations officer of the brigade, to deploy forces at the hospital, using the Rangers under Guinolbay and soldiers of the 55th Infantry Battalion.

The fact-finding body, however, noted that "CSAFP (Villanueva) instructed (Lucero) to maintain contact" with what was thought to be the main Abu Sayyaf body in Tuburan.

Villanueva, who arrived in Basilan on June 1, had believed that the "incident at Lamitan was a diversionary tactic," it said.

The body said the Armed Forces chief had wanted to deploy the AFP Counter-Terrorist Force (AFP-CTF) and a company from the Marines, giving assurance that these units will arrive in two hours.

It said Narcise "had no option but to utilize available forces on hand and wait for the reinforcements, as committed by higher headquarters, which were to arrive in two hours."

The reinforcements, however, arrived at 9 p.m. "or 11 hours later." The Abu Sayyaf had already escaped between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Villanueva's order reversing that of Narcise was also relayed at 9:10 a.m. to Lucero by a certain Lieutenant Merioles, aide of Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, commander of the 1st Infantry Division and the immediate superior of Narcise.

At 10 a.m., Dominguez personally informed Narcise that the AFP-CTF and a Marine company would be in Lamitan within two hours.

Better tactic

The fact-finding body noted that "on hindsight, the decision of (Narcise) to shift his forces from Tuburan to Lamitan, which was rescinded, was the better course of action."

"First, his units were more familiar with the area than the AFP-CTF since it was their area of operation," it said.

"Secondly, (Lucero) stated that they could have arrived in Lamitan from Tuburan within two hours, much earlier than the nine hours of the AFP-CTF."

"Thirdly, the (Abu Sayyaf) being pursued at Tuburan was the group that was in Lamitan, hence was not a diversionary force," the fact-finding body said.

The investigators said the "lack of necessary troops to cordon off the area" was evident because the Rangers under Guinolbay and troops under Maj. Eliseo Campued, executive officer of the 18th IB, were being shifted to and from the engagement area.

"Had the AFP-CTF arrived within two hours as promised or had the elements of the 18th IB been allowed to proceed to Lamitan, government forces could have fixed and finished (off) the enemy," they said.

They also noted that troops of the 18th IB, who were in Tuburan, called the 103rd Brigade's tactical command post at 4 p.m. on June 2 and "recommended to proceed to Lamitan proper" to reinforce government forces there.

Acierto, however, replied that "they could handle the situation (in Lamitan)" and advised the 18th IB forces to remain in Tuburan.

The probers were silent on allegations that a number of military officers received money from the Abu Sayyaf in exchange for allowing the bandits to escape from Lamitan.

They also did not look into allegations that one of the hostages, construction magnate Reghis Romero II, paid a ransom of between P10 million and P25 million for his freedom.

Conflicting accounts show that Romero either "escaped" along with girlfriend Maria Rhiza Santos and 9-year-old RJ Recio or was "allowed to escape" by his captors.

Ranger to receive AFP Medal of Valor

(From page A1)

when he was ordered to proceed to the St. Peter's Church in Lamitan, Basilan, without being told that Abu Sayyaf bandits had already laid siege on the area.

"One was killed instantly while two others even asked my permission to die," he had said.

During the ambush, Guinolbay personally dragged many of his men to safety and ministered to the wounded.

Noting that the officer was being cited for "exceptional gallantry," Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta Jr. said Guinolbay represented the best of the country's soldiery.

"His sterling qualities and skills are what the Army requires of its officers and men," he said.

Mabanta added that the recommendation was already in process.

Men in battle

A combat officer since his graduation from the Philippine Military Academy in 1994, Guinolbay had never lost men in battle, until the firefight in Lamitan.

"It was like losing a brother all over again," said Guinolbay, whose youngest brother died in an accident two years ago.

"The situation was very chaotic," he had said at the Aug. 24 House hearing.

"It was the first time I saw my own men fall in combat. When I touched the head of one of my men I saw that it had been reduced by half. I was carrying him with his brain spilling out on the pavement. While I carried my wounded men, I was crying."

In all, Guinolbay lost four men while eight other Rangers whom he had personally trained were wounded during the 27-hour encounter.

Guinolbay was the course director of Scout Ranger Class 142, whose members made up the unit that was waylaid by the Abu Sayyaf in Lamitan.

"There was a special bonding built among us during the training and we became like brothers," Guinolbay said. "I felt the burden because it was I who took them to battle."

At last month's hearing, he said he could not recall having told Nacorda that he and his men had been used as "*pain*" or bait.

Honorable death

In spite of the controversy over Nacorda's allegations that some military men had connived with the Abu Sayyaf, Guinolbay has not changed his soldier's outlook.

"To die in the battlefield is an honorable death. That's an accepted fact among us soldiers. We've prepared for that," Guinolbay said.

Despite their casualties, Scout Ranger Class 142 went on to engage the bandits at the Sampinit Complex, also in Basilan, on June 26. In that encounter, three Abu Sayyaf bandits were confirmed killed.

The Sampinit clash earned Guinolbay a Gold Cross medal, the third highest decoration in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"If I die fighting and my parents were to be told that I died in battle, it would be enough to console their sorrows," Guinolbay said.

Ifugao farmers

The fourth of eight children born to farmers in Ifugao, Guinolbay was a full scholar at the University of the Philippines College Baguio where he enrolled as a freshman student of political science and history in 1989.

"I wanted to become a lawyer and enter the military as a lawyer," Guinolbay said.

Unsure whether he could get a stable job after college in order to help support his family, Guinolbay set his sights on a military career through the PMA.

Immediately after graduation from the country's premier military school, he joined the Scout Rangers, the Army's elite jungle fighting force. When he completed the Ranger course, he ranked first among 94 students.

He held assignments with the 5th and 7th Scout Ranger Companies, where he saw action in various parts of the country.

"The longest time I'm in one particular place is three months and that's probably why I'm still a bachelor," Guinolbay said in jest.

Ranger school

Guinolbay also attended the world's toughest Ranger school—Fort Benning in Georgia state in the United States. Of eight foreign students in the class, only Guinolbay completed the training.

In spite of his commitment to the Scout Rangers, Guinolbay has also made sure his siblings at home would not be left behind.

"I helped my sister finish medicine. I'm still supporting two siblings in college. One is taking dentistry while the other is into physical therapy."

Winning medals, ribbons and commendations in his military career, Guinolbay has done his mother proud.

"My mother wears my (PMA) ring even if she's cleaning at the farm," he confided.

Class 142 completed training only in April. The 132-strong batch had its test mission in Sulu, where they fought secessionist rebels in a series of engagements that earned Guinolbay two Bronze Cross medals, the fourth highest award in the military.

Guinolbay received his first Bronze Cross in 1996, in the course of fighting communist rebels in Cagayan.

Class 142 was flown back to Manila at the height of protests by supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada in May. The unit was deployed as part of the second layer of defense in Malacañang.

The batch was supposed to link up with the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade in Basilan when they found themselves in the middle of the battle in Lamitan.

"We could see the flashes of the enemy's guns," Guinolbay said.

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Maximum Torque (kg-m @ rpm)	12.1 @ 3,000	12.1 @ 4,700	10.3 @ 4,200	10.3 @ 4,000
Rear Defogger	✓	-	-	-
SRP	P480,000	P508,000	P538,000	P523,000

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P569,000 MT SRP

FEATURES	RIO HB	HCTYZ	MITLC
Engine Displacement/ Type	1,493 cc/EFI 16-valve DOHC	1,493 cc/EFI 16-valve SOHC	1,468 cc/ carbureted 12-valve SOHC
Rear seat - fold-flat type	✓	-	-
Driver-side airbag	✓	-	-
SRP	P569,000	P599,000	P625,000

VANS

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P605,000 SRP

FEATURES	PREGIO RS	TYHACOM	NUVSHTLE
Engine Displacement/ Type	2,665 cc/OHC	2,446 cc/OHC	2,663 cc/OHV
Overall width (mm)	1,810	1,690	1,690
Suspension type Front	Double wishbone/ coil spring	Double wishbone/ torsion bar	Double wishbone/ torsion bar
Rear	5-link/coil spring	Rigid axle/leaf spring	Rigid axle/leaf spring
SRP	P605,000	P827,000	P750,000

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P690,000 MT SRP
P725,000 AT SRP

FEATURES	PREGIO FEST	TYHAGL	NUVESPD
Engine Displacement/ Type	2,665 cc/OHC	1,998 cc/OHC	2,663 cc/OHV
Transmission	5 MT/ 4AT	5 MT	5 MT
Suspension type Front	Double Wishbone/ coil spring	Double Wishbone/ torsion bar	Double Wishbone/ torsion bar
Rear	5-link/coil spring	Rigid axle/leaf spring	Rigid axle/leaf spring
Second row seat-rotating 180°	✓	-	-
SRP	P690,000 MT P725,000 AT	P867,000 MT	P780,000 MT

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Engine Displacement/Type	2,665 cc diesel	2,477 cc diesel
Maximum Torque (kg-m @ rpm)	17.5 @ 2,400	15 @ 2,000
Overall length (mm)	4,770	4,100
Overall width (mm)	1,750	1,695
Rear body length (ft)	9.5	8
Chassis payload (kg)	1,220	1,140
SRP (Cab Chassis)	P420,000	P435,000

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P869,000 MT SRP
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FEATURES	CARNIVAL	TYHA-GRAN	HYSTARVX
Engine Displacement/ Type	2,902 cc turbo intercooler 16-valve DOHC diesel	2,985 cc OHC diesel	2,476 cc turbo intercooler diesel
Maximum Output (PS @ rpm)	135 @ 3,800	87 @ 4,000	100 @ 3,800
Overall length (mm)	4,930	4,830	4,695
Overall width (mm)	1,895	1,690	1,820
Wheelbase (mm)	2,910	2,590	2,810
Transmission	5 MT/4 AT	5 MT	5 MT/4 AT
Suspension Type Front Coil	✓	-	-
Rear Coil	✓	√	√
ABS	✓	-	-
Driver-side airbag	✓	-	-
SRP	P869,000 MT P919,000 AT	P1,088,000	P938,000 MT P978,000 AT

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SEA GAMES

RP golf team opens campaign

KUALA LUMPUR—No ambitious intentions but nevertheless, the Philippines will gun for honor if not for glory as it starts defense of the golf crown in the 21st Southeast Asian Games here.

"We have a team built around players with no airs between their ears," said Rod Feliciano, president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines. "They don't have spectacular credentials except that they have a big heart and brains steeped on discipline."

Juvic Pagunsan, the recent winner of the Canlubang Amateur Open, heads the squad in the company of Marvin Dumandan, Jay Bayron and Boyet Saragoza in the gargantuan task of duplicating the two gold medals won (men's individual and team play) in Brunei in 1999. Gene Bondoc, 17, is an alternate.

The four mainstays are rookies in the biennial meet, which drew eight other countries—Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Singapore, Myanmar, Vietnam and Laos. Cambodia did not send a team.

Thailand is the top seed, followed by Malaysia and the Philippines.

As hosts, the Malaysians have the luxury of making the pairings. It was therefore expected that the Filipinos were pitted against the Thais in the first two rounds of the 72-hole event for the individual gold.

"My instructions are very clear," said Iggy Clavecilla, team captain. "I told them to forget who their playing partners are. They should play the course and not their men."

Pagunsan, 23, is paired today and tomorrow against Prom Meesawat, Thailand's hottest amateur for the last three years. They tee off at 9:20 a.m. with Vietnam'sTran Trong Thien.

Dumandan, 21, is paired with Ronnachai Jamnong and Vietnam's Nguyen The Vinh at 9:30 a.m. Bayron, 22, is with Pariya Junhasavadikul and Vietnman's Tran Tuan Khanh at 9:40 a.m.

Saragoza, 28 and the team's shortest member at below five feet, is paired with Wisut Artjanawat and Vietnam's Nguyen Van Thong at 9:50.

The Filipinos arrived here on Aug. 27 to familiarize themselves with Sungai Long, a Jack Nicklaus-designed layout that plays like the Southwoods' Masters and Legends courses combined.

The best three scores are counted for the day for team placings. After four days, the Top 8 teams will be pitted for the match play on Sept. 15-16 to determine the team champion.

Clavecilla's wards, selected through a process of NGAP-held tournaments for the year, had their last practice round yesterday in the company of the women's team headed by Alice Andrada.

Andrada's team, composed of Carmelette Villaroman, Heidi Chua, Ruby Chico and alternate Lucy Landicho, will begin play tomorrow, also at Sungai Long.

Like in the men's play, Thailand was also the top seed in women's competition, followed by Malaysia and the Philippines.

Chico won the individual gold in 1987 as she spearheaded the Philippines to a golden victory in team play.

KUALA LUMPUR 2001 SUKAN SEA XXI SEA GAMES

Venus rips sis Serena

NEW YORK—Venus Williams beat her sister Serena in a historic showdown of siblings, then somberly walked to the net, embraced her opponent, and said a gentle "I love you."

The 21-year-old Venus retained her US Open title Saturday night with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over the more erratic 19-year-old Serena, taking her fourth major championship and affirming her position as the most powerful hitter in women's tennis.

The match was the 10th between sisters in a Grand Slam match during the Open era, with the older sister winning every time.

Venus had 19 unforced errors, not including the shot she whiffed on a ball that landed long anyway. Serena had 36 unforced errors. There were also seven service breaks, unusual for players with such dominant serves.

But there were some dazzling exchanges as both players swung from the heels, putting all their strength into every shot and grunting with exertion.

It was the sisters' third-consecutive Open title. Serena, 19, became the first Williams to win a major championship two years ago, and Venus won last year.

Venus is now 4-1 up in their head-to-head matches.

Sampras vs Hewitt

Meanwhile, a rejuvenated Pete Sampras prepared for Sunday's men's championship match against first-time Grand Slam finalist Lleyton Hewitt.

Sampras, who has won a record 13 major titles, on Saturday avenged a loss in last year's final by beating Marat Safin 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-3. Earlier, Hewitt won the most one-sided men's semifinal in Open history, drubbing Yevgeny Kafelnikov 6-1, 6-2, 6-1.

Williams vs. Williams attracted a capacity crowd of 23,023 generously sprinkled with former tennis stars and celebrities. *AP*

VENUS (right) hugs Serena and whispers "I love you." AP

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: US Open 2001, Men's Singles/Ladies Doubles Finals at 7 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
GOLF: Golfglobe 2001 at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
Asian PGA Tour/ Davidoff Tour - Taiwan Open at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
PGA Bell Canadian Open Final Round at 2 p.m. (r – 11 p.m.) on Star Sports
AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Primetime at 7:30 a.m. on ESPN

Manny backs cage 'superbody'

PANGILINAN

BUSINESSMAN-sportsman Manny Pangilinan, who is also the Basketball Association of the Philippines chair, yesterday threw his all-out support to the proposed "basketball superbody" even as he vowed to unveil a grand plan for a national basketball development.

Pangilinan, who is also team manager of the Ateneo Blue Eagles in the UAAP and owner of the Talk and Text squad in the PBA, attended the meeting among BAP officials and representatives from the country's leading leagues at the Manila Hotel last Friday.

Pangilinan backed what the BAP officials called a "wholistic approach" in pushing for basketball development, which remained stunted by the political wranglings in the BAP as a result of the leadership squabble between Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat and Quintellano "Tiny" Literal.

Puyat is recognized by the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) as head of the national association for basketball while Literal received the blessings of the International Basketball Federation (Fiba), which supervised his election.

Puyat and the POC are questioning the Fiba-ordered election, saying it was held in defiance of the Court of Appeals decision, nullifying all elections that named Literal "BAP president." The apellate court also recognized the jurisdiction of the POC in settling leadership problems among its member-National Sports Associations.

Literal, meanwhile, filed graft charges against Court of Appeals Justice Rebecca De Guia-Salvador, who penned the order.

But Pangilinan said the BAP leadership brouhaha should take a backseat even as he encouraged officials of the leagues, particularly the NCAA and the UAAP, to become part of the "basketball superbody," which would play a pivotal role in the future formation of national teams to international competitions, like the SEA Games and the Asian Games.

Talk N Text triumphs

BY JUNE NAVARRO

GAMES WEDNESDAY (Philsports)
5:05 p.m.—Red Bull vs Sta. Lucia
7:10 p.m.—SMB vs Purefoods

TALK N TEXT silenced Shell's offensive machinery in the final period to prevail, 92-90, last night in the PBA Governors Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Phone Pals battled back from 21 points down while limiting the Zoommasters to only 14 markers in the fourth quarter to open their season-ending campaign on an auspicious tone.

Barangay Ginebra spoiled Eric Menk's return as the Kings thwarted Tanduay, 99-96, in the second game.

Scores:

TALK N TEXT 92—Williams 39, Taulava 20, Ejercito 11, Camaso 11, Demape 5, Pablo 5, Codiñera 1, Fran 0, Gonzales 0, Angeles 0.

SHELL 90—Jones 42, Hrabak 11, Telan 10, Jackson 9, Wainwright 6, Marzan 4, Esplana 4, Singson 4, Lim 0, Paras 0.

Quarters: 16-33, 41-60, 61-76, 92-90.

UAAP RESULTS
Ateneo 74, UE 66; UP 83, NU 78

NCAA TODAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
12:00—Mapua vs SSC (jrs/srs)
3:30 p.m.—UPHR vs JRC (jrs/srs)

MOTOCROSS

Shell-Yamaha bets shine

SHELL-YAMAHA Racing Team unleashed its full might despite strong opposition and came away with most of the titles in the sixth and penultimate leg of the National Motocross Championship 2001: A Race of WG&A at the Eastborough Place in Angono, Rizal.

Seven-time champion Jovie Saulog and Ernie Leongson stood at the forefront of Shell-Yamaha's remarkable showing, finishing 1-2 in the centerpiece pro open category to the delight of a wildly cheering and predominantly Shell-Yamaha crowd.

Saulog, dubbed the "Ageless Warrior" by motocross fans, steered his Yamaha 4-stroke to a sweep in the pro open category in another impressive performance reminiscent of his dominance in the late '80s up to early '90s.

And Leongson, who brought honors to the country by winning the Guam invitational motocross championships recently, completed Shell-Yamaha's mastery by finishing a close second to Saulog.

The 1-2 finish of Saulog and Leongson also spoiled the planned celebration of former Shell-Yamaha rider Glen Aguilar, who finished only third for the day.

"We're very happy. The 1-2 finish of Saulog and Leongson underscored the team's dominance in this thrilling sport," said Shell-Yamaha team consultant Gregorio "Yoyong" Buncio.

Buncio said Shell's racetrack-tested advance motorcycle oil and lubricants and Yamaha's latest motorcycle technology enabled the riders to maximize their potentials during the actual competition.

Gutierrez, Anton share GP honors

SUBIC—Monching Gutierrez and Carlos Anton of Gulf Oil-MP Turbo and Menchie Francisco of SRA emerged as the overall champions in their respective categories at the end of the Petron Grand Prix 2001 at the Subic International Raceway.

Gutierrez finished only second to Mikko David of Caltex in the penultimate round, but it was enough to clinch the overall championship in the SVI Challenge Cup with a runaway score of 94 points built around eight first-place and three runner-up finishes.

The well-known movie/TV actor, who took up car racing seriously only last year, was already assured of the overall title as early as the previous leg last month.

"I'm very happy (to win), and I would like to share this victory with my teammates and team staff," said Gutierrez, who drove a green-and -white Hyundai Elantra.

Tom Pastor of Team TEC finished a far second overall with 58 points, followed by Francisco in third place with 33 points, Oscar Aguilar of Caltex in fourth with 29 points and David in fifth with 27 points.

Anton swept both season-ending races against Enzo Pastor of Team TEC and six other drivers to formalize his claim to the overall title in the production car championship.

The Baguio-based Anton, who won 10 of the last 11 rounds, finished with 110 points against 66 points of David and 56 points of Pastor.

Another Team TEC entry—Carlo Pastor—finished fourth with 49 points.

SPORTSWATCH

Verplank ahead by 1 shot

MONTREAL— Scott Verplank is using Royal Montreal as a training ground for The Belfry. Three weeks before the biggest tournament of his life, Verplank carded a four-under-par 66 on Saturday for a one-shot lead over Dicky Pride and Paul Gow after three rounds of the Canadian Open. Defending champion Tiger Woods is 10 shots back as he seeks his second straight title and sixth this season. He followed Friday's 73 with a 69 and was tied for 29th. *AFP*

Johnson bows out a winner

BRISBANE, Australia—Michael Johnson's Golden Lap Victory Tour came to the perfect conclusion Friday when the five-time Olympic champion anchored the US 1,600-meter relay team to victory at the Goodwill Games. Organizers scheduled the Johnson's championship finale to mark the end of the athletics program at the Goodwill Games, which is being held outside of the United States or Russia for the first time. As he crossed the finish line, the 29,973 fans gave him a standing ovation and he was congratulated by his relay teammates, Derrick Brew, Leonard Byrd and Antonio Pettigrew. *AP*

Verde Island tourney on tap

IT'S all systems go for the Verde Island Resort Fish ID competition on Sept. 15-16, 29-30. Interested parties may join the event for only P3,500, Verde Island resort's dive promo package which includes an aircon room, four meals and four dives during the competition dates. The tourney is sponsored by Scuba World and aired on Unlimited Diving every Fridays (11-11:30 p.m.) over NBN Channel 4. For registration, call 920-8505 or cell 0917-936-8895.

Cavite 7-cock int'l meet set

CAVITE Coliseum and Derby Center, located at the Aguinaldo Highway (km. 18) in Bacoor, Cavite, will celebrate its 11th anniversary in grand style on Dec. 3, 5 and 7 by staging the annual Cavite 7-Cock International Derby.

Regarded as one of the longest-running sports affair, the three-day international cockfest will again be hosted by Sen. Ramon Revilla and his longtime friend, lawyer Rudy Salud. The derby's beneficiary will be the Philippine Mental Health.

At stake is a guaranteed P2 million, while entry fee is P30,000. The champion handler and gaffer gets P70,000 and P30,000 respectively.

Local participants who want to avail of import permits may contact Ferdie Bautista at 0919-3472192 or (02)-5526724. They may also contact Cavite Coliseum at (046)-9709971, 9704811 or (02)-8093981.

'Stagwars' derby unfolds at Big Dome

THE BIGGEST and toughest "Stagwars" series ever will be launched today (Monday) with the staging of the star-studded NCA (National Cockers Association) 7-Stag Derby at the Landmark Araneta Coliseum.

Featuring the very best battle birds of the land, the blue-ribbon event will be hosted by noted derby buffs Gerry Fevidal, Blandy Tolentino and Edgar Santos. No less than 50 quality fights will usher in the three-stag elimination matches today followed by the crucial four-stag finals on Wednesday, Sept. 12. Qualified entries are those screened and wing-banded by NCA, NGBA, GFBAN, Balbina, Pagba and Igba. Also on tap are stag derbies billed on Sept. 24-26, Oct. 8-10, Oct. 15-17 and Oct. 22-24.

Among the battle-tested participants seeing action are Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, Ambassador Danding Cojuangco, the venerable former Rep. James Chiongbian, Gov. Ito Ynares, two-time Cocker of the Year Jun "Idol" Santiago, Eddie and Bomboy Araneta, Pampanga's well-known June and Rudy Jingco, the famous Macias bayan brothers, Rep. Rudy Albano, popular lawyer Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza, respected breeder Boy Jiao, Jun Cometa, Jobo del Rosario, Vic Yu of Mandaluyong Coliseum;

Former Tarlac Rep. Peping Cojuangco and Esting Teopaco, Georgie Antonio and the Firefly Group, Jun Velasco, Iking and Jimmyton Araneta, Meycauayan Mayor Eddie Alarilla, Allan Tan, Patrick Puno, Bacolod's Boy Nilo Lizares, Boy and Al Velez, Johnny Jalandoni, Roel Feliciano and Sons, Jessie Viceo, Romy Panganiban and John Capinpin, among others.

Top pool pros to play here

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

MY EXCLUSIVE report about the Philippines receiving an offer to host the prestigious World Pool League has been confirmed. I gathered that longtime billiards benefactor Puyat Sports has already started negotiations with sports-entertainment giant Viva Vintage Television to co-promote the expensive venture with Matchroom Sport Limited of Essex, England.

Puyat Sports, headed by brothers Popit and Putch Puyat, was given the first option because of its good track record, beating other aspiring promoters from Japan, Taiwan and South Korea. The local promoters, I was told, are targeting a November play date to stage this year's biggest and most expensive sporting event starring the world's best and toughest pool dudes led by our very own Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante, who recently won the Masters 9-Ball tournament in Essex.

Pitting the best eight cue artists from Europe, Asia and the United States, the World Pool League is an annual 9-ball tournament which has been so far held only in Europe, with Warsaw, Poland, staging the event the last three years. Last year, Bustamante finished second to Steve Knight of the United Kingdom, while in 1999 Reyes "The Magician," placed behind Jim Rempe of the US in the finals.

The blue-ribbon affair, by the way, would enable the legion of Filipino billiards fans to watch in person Britain's snooker legend Steve Davis, who upset Bata Reyes in last year's World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales, 9-8, after coming from behind 2-8. It would also feature World Pool League defending champion Steve Knight, who, as stated earlier, bested Bustamante, 7-1, in the finals last year.

Also in the proposed field are former world champion Fong Pang-chao of Taiwan, flamboyant American icon Earl "The Pearl" Strickland or countryman Corey Deuel, the Billiards Congress of America (BCA) 9-ball Open winner; the No. 1 player from Japan and, of course, Bata Reyes and Django Bustamante.

Matchroom Sport Limited is the renowned British company that promotes the annual Cardiff World Pool Championship which Bata Reyes won in 1999 and the World Tenpin Masters Championships which the legendary Paeng Nepomuceno won a record four times.

It would be a golden opportunity to stage the World Pool League here because it would take away the world's attention from the crises that beset our country at present and, as I said before, this mammoth event would surely "lift the spirits of Filipinos shaken by the prevailing political and economic hard times."

* * *

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'Mighty' prevails

LONGSHOT Mighty Strong rallied from second to last to win the Hombre Stakes race, second leg of the Juvenile Colts Championship, yesterday at the Santa Ana Park.

Handled by star jockey F.M. Raquel Jr., Mighty Strong prevailed by one length over second choice Bidang Bida and bagged P240,000 for businessman Albert Yam.

Winning time over the 1,450-meter race was 1:34 flat (15-24-25-30).

Mighty Strong sold only P24,790 out of P1,173,369.

Top favorite Schwarzenegger came in only third, while Conquer D Sun arrived fourth.

BENJAMIN Guevarra in action during the quarterfinals of the doubles snooker competitions. Guevarra teamed up with Marlon Manalo to beat the Malaysian duo. ERNIE SARMIENTO

Lydia a big star in Kuala Lumpur

BY DENNIS U. EROA

KUALA LUMPUR—Back home, Lydia de Vega-Mercado is still trying to learn the ropes as Meycauyan's leading councilor. Here, Diay, Asia's former queen of sprints, is a sought-after celebrity.

Mediamen outmuscle each other trying to have a glimpse and interview De Vega-Mercado. Leading English newspapers like the New Straits Times, Star Sport and The Sun splashed the Filipina's photo.

She joined other SEA Games greats, including Myanmar's Jennifer Tin Lay, Malaysia's Sylvia Ng, Indonesia's Alfira Rosa Nasution and Thailand's Bounpon Siraphone in the torch relay during the elaborate opening ceremonies of the 21st SEA Games Saturday night at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil.

"This is a big honor not just for myself but to my family and country. This is a recognition of all of my efforts to become part of SEA Games history," De Vega told the INQUIRER.

The Bulacan heroine still owns the SEA Games record for 100m and 200m. She finished college major in Physical Education at the Far Eastern University.

He married Meralco engineer Paolo aside from occasionally helping broadcast track and field events hosted by the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association.

In recognition of her sterling achievements, Diay's fellow Bulakeños gave her a resounding mandate during the last May elections. She was a first-timer but De Vega-Mercado beat even grizzled politicians, garnering the highest number of votes among all the candidates.

2005 EDITION

Cebu drums up SEAG bid

BY DENNIS U. EROA

KUALA Lumpur—While Filipino athletes are digging for golds, three leading contenders in the interesting race for the rights to host the 2005 edition of the Southeast Asian Games in the Philippines have also started to flex their muscles and gain headway.

Jonathan Guardo, chair of the Cebu City Sports Commission, Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella and Pampanga Vice Governor and presidential son Mikey Arroyo are all here observing the conduct of the first SEA Games of the new millennium.

Carlos Tuason, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, has already talked with the three sports leaders. But Tuason is concerned about the infrastructure.

This was the same sentiment echoed by Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit. Dayrit suggested the works for the 2005 Games should start immediately, right after the Malaysian edition.

"It has to start right now or never," said Dayrit, while noting that up-and-coming Vietnam, host of the 2003 SEAG, is determined to make a grand show even better than Malaysia.

Vietnam is actually building a world-class stadium in preparation for another record number of participants.

Tuason said a Task Force composed of people from Malacañang, PSC, Department of Tourism, DILG, etc., must be set-up in order to have a systematic way of preparing for the Games. He cautioned that Malacañang may not be generous in giving financial help and corporate sponsors must be tapped.

Jai's son wants to make his mark

BY DENNIS U. EROA

KUALA LUMPUR – Remember Jairulla "Jai" Jaitula? Jaitula was one of the country's durable and bemedalled swimmers in the '70s.

Well, Jai, as friends call him, has retired from active competitions. He is presently with the Philippine Air Force and uses his free time coaching up-and-coming swimmers.

Another Jaitula, this time in water polo, is competing in the ongoing SEA Games here. He is Jailaula Jaitulla, 22-year-old son of Jairulla. "It's going to be difficult following the footsteps of my father. But in my own little way, I hope that I can contribute my share to the country," said Jailaula, whose nickname is Bong.

An Airman Second Class, Bong is a forward. He partners Antonio Antonio, another talented member of the national team, in scoring the needed goals.

"Bong is very reliable," said the 24-year-old Antonio, a student coordinator for the bemedalled La Salle men's basketball team. Antonio, who finished Developmental Studies and Business Management at La Salle, is also in his third SEA Games.

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Cathy leads cheer squad for gymnasts

KUALA LUMPUR—Former gymnastics marvel Cathy Ocampo and other former national athletes are taking time out from their present-day job to cheer Filipino gymnasts competing at the Putra Stadium at Bukit Jalil here.

"We're here to cheer the team," said Ocampo, 30, as she traded jokes with scribes. She and fellow SEA games alumni Alexander Tolentino, Benedicto Gutierrez and Robert Gutierrez Jr. work as coaches in the prestigious Singapore-American Country Active Council School.

Ocampo's name became a byword long before Bea Lucero and now Pia Adelle Reyes came into the spotlight.

A product of the University of the East, Ocampo owns three SEA Games gold medals. She won the floor exercise golds during the 1991 Manila and 1993 Singapore editions of the biennial Games.

She was also a member of the gold-medal winning women's team and earned a silver in the all-around competitions in 1991. "I hope that we'll do good here," Ocampo said.

Dennis U. Eroa

50 squads joining Sta. Lucia Tour

FIFTY teams represented by 200 members of five clubs in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao are in the roster for the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour 2001 set to start on Friday, Sept. 13, at the picturesque Alta Vista course in Pardo, Cebu.

The Eagle Ridge contingent forms the bulk of this year's participants with 16 four-man teams, followed by the Orchard with 10, Alta Vista-Cebu with nine, Royale Tagaytay with eight and Rancho Palos Verdes-Davao with four.

The field will go through a series of four 36-hole competitions in four clubs nationwide including Orchard, Palos Verdes and Eagle Ridge with the team having the best aggregate to be awarded the prestigious Sta. Lucia Cup.

At the end of the series involving clubs operating under the Sta. Lucia banner this December, a residential lot in Eagle Ridge worth more than a million and appliance showcases worth twice as much will be raffled off.

"The field is more balanced this year and this is because handicaps have been properly monitored. Players have been improving and this is evident in the handicaps they've submitted," said Vicente Santos, chair of the executive committee.

"The trip to Davao is, of course, the big bonus this year. Now there will be six courses to be played in Sta. Lucia Tour compared to last year's five with the inclusion of Rancho Palos Verdes," he said,

Engineer Winnie Gob, for his part, said that the strong support from other corporate backers paved the way for a better package of tournament prizes, raffle and even giveaways.

This year's co-sponsors are Golforce Inc., Gainers Marketing, Atlanta Industries, Kubota Agro-Ind. Machinery Phils., Unirock, Readycon, Club Car, Cebu Plaza Hotel, Omega, Yamaha, Philippine Airlines, Fastman Kodak Co., Marco Polo Hotel, Isuzu Fuego-Alabang and Neltex, Anako.

From Cebu, the course-hopping series moves to Orchard on Oct. 11-13, then to Palos Verdes in Mandug/Indanga, Davao City on Nov. 8-10 before winding up at Eagle Ridge in Gen. Trias, Cavite on Dec. 6-8.

Orchard steals Fed League show

ORCHARD snatched the limelight from big guns Manila Southwoods and Alabang by ending a four-match losing streak after an impressive 3.5-.5 victory over Eastridge over the weekend in the 2001 Federation Golf League in various courses.

Rene Unson and Vic Florentino set the tone for the morale-boosting win by taking the best ball match via a 4&3 win as Orchard kept its flickering hopes alive going into the last three weeks of eliminations.

Also picking up wins were the tandems of Louie Garcia-Quino Baterna (scramble) and Timmy Owyong-Jimmy dela Cruz (high-low) while the aggregate pair of Sengyo Kato-Boy Crisostomo salvaged a draw.

Southwoods and Alabang remained on track for the automatic semis berths by turning back their rivals.

Southwoods completed another 4-0 victory, this time with Sta. Elena as its victim. The tandems of Boy Escano-Angelo Que (scramble), Jerome Delariarte-Stephen Liao (best ball), Ken Onda-Butch Brodett (aggregate) and Sevi Liao-Marty Ilagan (high-low) carried out the massacre for the title favorites.

It was the fifth straight victory for Southwoods while Sta. Elena went down to its third defeat against two wins and a draw.

Alabang brought Manila Golf back to earth with a 3-1 triumph.

Seve Roxas Chua-Rene Garovillo, Edwin Arcilla-Vic Guzman and Caloy Coscolluela-Luis Lim fashioned easy victories for the unbeaten Alabang squad while Philip Romualdez and OV Espiritu salvaged a shutout loss by nipping Jun Galindez and Jimbo Inigo in scramble, 1 up.

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■ Venus defeats Serena A22

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

■ PBA results A22

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(As of 5 p. m.)

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
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Indonesia	4	4	4
Vietnam	3	2	8
Philippines	2	4	5
Singapore	2	2	1
Myanmar	1	3	3
Thailand	0	4	4
Brunei	0	0	1
Laos	0	0	0
Cambodia	0	0	0

RP 5 heavy favorite

Indonesia team manager concedes

BY DENNIS U. EROA

KUALA LUMPUR — The Philippine men's basketball team is heavily favored to beat Indonesia when it starts its Southeast Asian Games title-retention campaign today at the Malaysian Basketball Association gym here.

Bannered by a selection of MBA stars, the Philippines should have no problem disposing of the Indons in the 4 p.m. match. Even Indon team manager Erick Thorir has already conceded the match to the Filipinos, saying the battle is now reduced to the silver medal.

"The Philippines is just too strong. All your players are professionals," said Thorir.

But coach Boyzie Zamar isn't taking chances. "The Indons are hiding something," said Zamar.

Slotman Romel Adducul has already recovered from foot injury as evidenced by his action during the parade of athletes in the opener of the 21st SEAG Saturday night. Adducul and some of his teammates were seen playing during the parade of the competing teams.

Vietnam is the next assignment for the Philippines. "Nobody can come within 30 points of the Filipinos," noted the Vietnamese coach.

Other reliables in the team are Reuben dela Rosa, John Ferriols, Jomar Tierra and Cris Calaguio.

The six-team tournament is a one-round affair.

KUALA LUMPUR 2001
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(Sept. 10)

Swimming

9 a.m. Men's 100 freestyle (M. Molina, M. Kalaw), women's 100 breaststroke (J. Guerrero), men's 100 breaststroke (M. Molina), women's 400 free (L. Danila), men's 200 individual medley (M. Molina, C. Piccio), women's 4X100m free relay (L. Danila, J. Guerrero, L. Dacanay, L. Ang).

Basketball

6 p.m. – RP vs Indonesia (women)

4 p.m. – RP vs Indonesia (men)

Billiards

10 a.m. – Doubles, RP (W. Kiamko, V. Tanio) vs Vietnam, prelims, semis, finals

Bowling

9 a.m. – Women's singles (L. Del Rosario, C. Yap. J. Canare, I. Garcia, A. Valdez, L. Clutario)

11:30 a.m. – Men's singles (C. King, C. Suarez, B. Rivera, B. Dytoc, C. Mansilingan, B. Rey)

Boxing

3 p.m. – Preliminary round

Cycling

9 a.m. – men's sprint (N. Estayo, E. Medina Jr., R. Gorantes), men's 1km ITT, final (W. Blas, N. Estayo, P. Manapul), men's 4km ind. pursuit, final (V. Espiritu, A. Catalan, L. Reynante), Olympic sprint qualifying (E. Medina Jr., N. Estayo, W. Blas, P. Curtan), men's keirin (P. Manapul, R. Gorantes, E. Medina Jr.)

Fencing

9 a.m. – Preliminary rounds, men's and women's ind. foil (E. Segui), R. Canlas, M. Belgado, L. Reyes)

Women's Football

5 p.m. – RP vs Malaysia

Golf

8 a.m. – Men's team, 1st round (J. Pagunsan, M. Dumandan, J. Bayron, J. Zaragoza)

Gymnastics

2 p.m. – men's artistic, women's artistic

Karatedo

10 a.m. – Women's individual kumite, men's individual kumite

Rowing

9 a.m. – Lightweight men's double sculls, lightweight, men's coxless fours, women's coxless pairs

Squash

10 a.m. – First round

Shooting

10 a.m. – 10-meter air pistol, men, final; 25-meter sport pistol women, final; 50-meter free rifle prone final

Sailing

11 a.m. – Races 1-2

Taekwondo

9 a.m. – finweight, middleweight, lightweight competitions

Tennis

9 a.m. – 2nd round men's and ladies' teams

Wushu

9 a.m. – Preliminary round

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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

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A26

Ex-cop shoots 4 neighbors to death

BY CARMELA REYES,
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SAN JOSE del Monte City, Bulacan—Police here arrested a retired policeman who allegedly shot to death four neighbors in Barangay San Martin on Saturday.

Police said Emilio Uy Jr., 46, went on a shooting rampage after arguing with a neighbor over an old grudge.

SPO3 Alfredo Bartolome, chief of the San Jose del Monte City annex police community precinct in Barangay Sapang Palay here, said Uy was formerly assigned in Camp Crame in Quezon City. Uy was arrested while he was about to leave his house on board his car on Saturday.

Police identified the dead as Conrado Ocura, 45, couple Rex and Cristina Barroquina, and Maria Beruingel, a widow.

Investigations showed that Uy was tending his *sari-sari* (variety retail) store when Ocura came to buy a sachet of instant coffee.

The two men argued after Uy reportedly refused to entertain Ocura. Police said the argument also centered on an old grudge between the two men over Ocura's alleged stoning of Uy's house and store.

EX-COP/ A26

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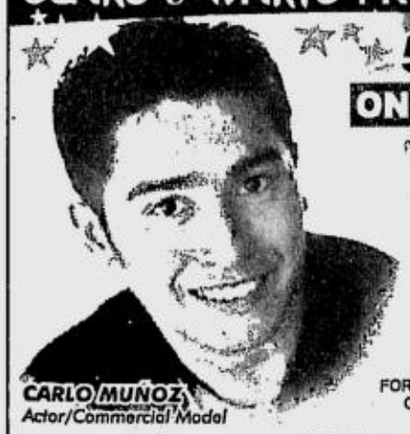

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I won't stoop to Lara's level – 'monster' MJ

BY LEAH SALTERIO

"IT'S not in my personality to sexually harass a girl," Rep. Mark Jimenez of the 6th District of Manila yesterday told the INQUIRER.

"I don't want to stoop to her level," Jimenez said of starlet Lara Morena. "I already consulted my lawyers and I'm really filing a case against her."

Jimenez was referring to Morena's allegations that he sexually harassed her at the Garden Cafe of Edsa Plaza Hotel in Mandaluyong City on Aug. 30.

Morena earlier told the INQUIRER that Jimenez touched her buttocks and tried to force his hand into her pants "from behind."

Jimenez, a former adviser to the deposed President Joseph Estrada, said Morena was the one who came to him.

"She was sitting at a different table and when I arrived, she joined our table and even ordered red wine," he said in a telephone interview.

Jimenez, through movie columnist Jojo Gabinete, had invited Morena to perform at the birthday party of Mandaluyong City Rep. Neptali Gonzales III at the hotel that night.

Morena and another singer, Allona, were supposed to be Jimenez's "birthday gift" for Gonzales, according to Gabinete.

Jimenez said Gonzales is his personal friend.

"I was not supposed to go to the party anymore and I already asked my driver to bring the payment to them," Jimenez said. "But when I

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PLDT

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September 8-14

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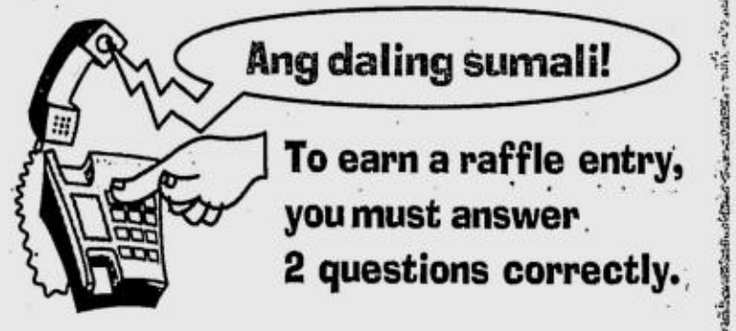

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   For example:
   • Name Entry: Dan Ty
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PLDT

RODRIGUEZ SAFE, SAYS ABALOS

Disease outbreak feared around Taytay dumpsite

BY AGNES DONATO AND NELSON F. FLORES

RESIDENTS of Taytay, Rizal fear the outbreak of disease as an open dump in one of their barangays continue to rise with garbage from some parts of Metro Manila.

Residents of nearby barangays have also been dumping their trash at the site in Lupang Arienda in Barangay Sta. Ana, according to Romy Inigo, a member of the staff of Taytay Vice Mayor Jun Katigbak.

Initially, the Taytay government and the residents had an agreement regarding the development of the area, Katigbak said.

"But instead of covering the place with soil, it has become an open dumpsite," he said. "Now, we're having a hard time stopping other residents from (throwing) trash there."

Aside from health problems, residents of relocation villages such as San Lorenzo and San Juan, which are near the dump, also have to live with the stink.

"Many of the residents in the relocation site have also experienced health problems," Inigo said.

He said local officials had witnessed some garbage trucks unloading tons of garbage in the five-hectare land, prompting them to register their disapproval.

Garbage trucks from Pasig, Makati and Mandaluyong would usually arrive between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. daily, Inigo said.

He said that Pasig City frequently dumped garbage near the site which is at the boundary of Pasig and Taytay.

"We have already told them not to enter the site," Inigo said. "But until now, we receive reports that dump trucks are still coming."

Yesterday, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. assured the public that the newly opened landfill in Rodriguez, Rizal complies with international standards on safety and sanitation.

Earlier, concerned residents of Rodriguez (formerly Montalban) vowed to oppose the operation of the new dumpsite, claiming it would surely damage the local environment.

But Abalos said the operation of the Rodriguez sanitary landfill would be closely monitored to ensure that dumpsite supervisors would comply with all sanitary requisites. He stressed that all conditions imposed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the operation of the dumpsite would be met.

"The Rodriguez dumpsite will not be another Payatas or Smokey Mountain," Abalos said.

He said the government has learned a lot from the Smokey Mountain and Payatas dumpsites and that these experiences have been taken into consideration in building and operating the Rodriguez sanitary landfill.

Only about 30 percent of Metro Manila's total daily waste of 6,000 tons or residual waste would be dumped in the new landfill, Abalos said.

"Only the waste that cannot be recycled or composted by MMDA recycling and composting plants will be dumped in the new landfill," he said.

He also clarified that it was not the MMDA that sought the opening of the Rodriguez dumpsite. He said it was the municipal government of Rodriguez that volunteered the site, which is about 20 kilometers away from the town proper.

He noted that the landfill area is so small that it won't affect any sizable portion of the population.

Abalos said Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo, an engineer by profession, volunteered portions of his 337,000-hectare town in a bid to develop the entire town, which has remained one of the poorest in Rizal province.

PUBLIC Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong (in cap) and Undersecretary Manual Bonoan (right) inspect the growing pile of garbage at a Dept. of Public Works and Highways pumping station in Manila. Datumanong ordered the department's NCR pumping station chief, Rogelio Flores, to coordinate with the Metro Manila Development Authority in cleaning up the pumping stations.

Police chief hurt in Cubao rob try

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

SENIOR Insp. Benjamin P. Ocomen, police chief of Bolinao, Pangasinan, was injured when three men ganged up on him and stabbed him in a holdup attempt Saturday night in Quezon City.

But Ocomen was able to shoot and hit one of the three men as they escaped, investigators said.

Ocomen, of Sta. Mesa, Manila, had four stab wounds while suspect Jessie G. Bardon, 21, a jeep barker from Marikina City, had a single gunshot wound in the back, said PO2 Bernardo Domingo of the Kamuning police station.

Bardon's two companions escaped, Domingo added.

The investigator said the three men struck around 9 p.m. after Ocomen boarded a jeep on his way home to Sta. Mesa, Manila.

At the corner of Aurora Boulevard and Seattle Street in Barangay Immaculate Concepcion, Cubao, the three men, armed with knives and a handgun, announced the holdup.

Ocomen grabbed the handgun, Domingo said. The suspects then ganged up on him and stabbed him twice in the stomach and twice in the left arm, Domingo said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 10, 2001
23rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Col 1:24—2:3
Gospel: Lk 6:6-11

On another sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and began teaching. There was a man with a paralyzed right hand and the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees watched him: Would Jesus heal the man on the sabbath? If he did, they could accuse him.

But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to the man, "Get up and stand in the middle." Then he spoke to them, "I want to ask you: what is allowed by the Law on the sabbath, to do good or to do harm, to save life or destroy it?" And Jesus looked around at them all.

Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out and his hand was restored, becoming as whole as the other. But they were furious and began to discuss with one another how they could deal with Jesus.

Commentary

Jesus is involved in another controversy. Why does he heal on the Sabbath? The Jews sanctify the Sabbath by going to the synagogues and studying the Torah. They avoid work; it would be irreverent to do so. Sabbath observance is one of the most important religious practices that has helped Judaism survive until now. It is unthinkable for a pious Jew to work on the Sabbath and to treat it like any other day. Jesus does not abolish the Sabbath, but he rightly claims to be the Lord of the Sabbath. Jesus, the Lord, goes beyond legalism, when human interest is at stake. He gives priority to helping people even if it means clashing with age-old traditions.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Elements of treachery—Accused-appellants contend that the suddenness of the attack against the victim alone does not constitute treachery. There must be evidence that the mode of attack was consciously adopted by them to make it impossible or difficult for the victim to defend himself. Moreover, accused-appellants maintain that the attack was frontal. Hence, the deceased has a fair warning of the impending attack. There is treachery when the offender commits any of the crimes against persons, employing means, methods or forms in the execution thereof which tend directly and specially to insure its execution, without risk to himself arising from the defense which the offended party might make. For treachery to be considered, two elements must concur: (1) the employment of means of execution that gives the person attacked no opportunity to defend himself or retaliate; and (2) the means of execution were deliberately or consciously adopted. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, People v. Amazan, G.R. Nos. 136251, 138606, 138607, January 16, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

SEA Games quiz for the Pinoy visitor

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

KUALA LUMPUR—The amazed visitor, used to the messy, treeless surroundings back in Metro Manila, is readily left filling in the blanks on what went wrong back home.

For example, why has this serene, orderly capital been generously blessed with trees—they even have a rain forest in the heart of the city—while Manila is left with nothing but weeds, soot, pollution and mountains of garbage?

Nobody in the media entourage heading for the International Broadcasting Center could provide a ready answer.

Because, informed a second-time visitor, there's a strict law here ordering continuous protection and planting of trees all year round.

But we also have such a law in the Philippines, said Mommy Q., the group's budget officer.

Yes, we do have all sorts of rules and ordinances in the Philippines, your reporter here explained, but authorities make sure that these are all violated.

* * *

There were no smoke-belchers to foul up city air here.

The informal quiz next shifted to the question of streets and highways.

Why do they have wide six-lane avenues, flawless and well-paved, while the supposed network of roads back in the Metro Manila area is a choking jungle where everybody is always in danger of being trapped in endless traffic?

Because the layout of Kuala Lumpur has been overseen by a firm, intelligent, strong-willed leader.

Only that?

More importantly, informed Mommy Q., they have a strong government that punishes violators, no matter their status, creed, of political affiliation.

You mean they don't have a democratic government here in Malaysia?

All I know is that Malaysia is a federation with a tested strongman as leader, I said. I'm also sure everything here would have been in a mess had they run public affairs the way our so-called democratic leaders run the Philippines.

Do they have a dictator down here?

I can't call him one, I said, he just make things done—properly.

* *

Well, truth is, majority of Filipinos here for the 21st Southeast Asian Games, are readily dumbfounded after only one trip around the capital.

The Pinoy is also always left suffering from two nasty sensations: Envy and regret.

"*Kailan ba tayo magkakaganito*?" the Manila visitor is often left asking. "*Iwan na Iwan na tayo.*"

Yes, Kuala Lumpur, with its tree-filled, serene surroundings—"Where are their garbage?"—could be every Pinoy's dream place.

The ready urge is to ask around about Malaysia's secret for success.

And this was provided for during the Games opening on Saturday.

Malaysians, so said the theme of the Games pageant, love their country with body and spirit.

* * *

There were some light moments in the quiz.

How do Malaysians call their chocolate cake?

Can't find the right answer, said premier female sportscaster Chiqui Roa.

Kek coklat, ha, ha, answered the balding quiz master.

What's the local term for school bus?

Nobody could fill in the blank.

Bas sekolah, heh, heh, thundered the quiz master.

Enough of that. Who was the RP team VIP who told Pinoy mediamen during dinner Friday that the Philippines is out to win 40 medals here and "hopefully all of them would be gold?"

Censored, said another rider, Malacañang will not like the answer.

Who was the VIP who told Malaysian interviewers this is the first time the Philippines is covering the Games and Pinoy broadcasters are here for a learning experience?

Censored again.

Why did First Gentleman Mike Arroyo shrug off suggestions by local authorities to forego marching with the RP delegation because there could be risk on his security.

The RP delegation needs a big boost, answered one rider.

But didn't he already offer a $200 extra allowance for each athlete?

So we heard

End of quiz.

UST reunion

THE 1972 graduates of UST High School will hold a reunion on Sept. 15 at 4 p.m. at the Philam Clubhouse at Philam Homes in Quezon City, to prepare for their 2002 homecoming as a 30-year-old alumni association.

Graduates should confirm their attendance with Cynthia A. Jacobe-Moss, 920-6116, 928-4098 and (fax) 926-7944; Babette Tecson-Mangahas, 920-0999 and 927-4701; 1972 batch president Tony Castillo, 0918-9178-174; Loida V. Dimalanta, 0917-8100-052; Hilda Ilagan Teresa, 0917-6117-116.

Ex-cop . . .

(From page A25)

Police records showed that Uy had accused Ocura of creating trouble in their village and of stoning his property.

Reports said that at the height of the argument, Ocura provoked Uy by saying, "*Sige, ilabas mo ngayon ang tapang mo* (Okay, show me your toughness)."

Bartolome said this could have prompted Uy to grab his .45 cal. pistol and shoot Ocura.

Police said Uy also turned his ire on the Barroquina couple and Beruingel, who were at his store at that time. The victims succumbed to bullet wounds in different parts of the body.

Confusion in new LRT fare system

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

TOKENS out. Magnetic cards in. Same old problems.

Confusion marred yesterday's implementation of a new fare collection system of the Light Rail Transit, which replaced tokens with magnetic cards.

Used to using tokens for nearly 20 years now, LRT passengers were at a loss on how to use the cards, which are similar to those used at the Metro Rail Transit.

"It's chaotic," Merlita Garcia, 62, complained. "We should have been properly informed about the new system."

As early as 5:30 a.m., hundreds of commuters trooped to the LRT station in Monumento to beat the early morning rush. But they were disappointed to find long queues at the station, apparently because of the new fare collection system.

Rolando Ignacio, 49, said there were not enough ticket booths to accommodate the number of passengers.

Another passenger, Lourdes Montinola, said many commuters were still caught flat-footed on the new fare system despite previous announcements by LRT management. "I think there should have been a more vigorous (information) campaign."

Montinola said the cards lacked sufficient instructions on their proper use.

"We don't know which side of the card should be inserted into the machine first. We wanted to ask the security guards but there were too many passengers. Imagine a lot of passengers asking questions all at the same time."

4 men clubbed, stabbed dead in Manila

FOUR men were clubbed and stabbed to death while a fifth one was injured in three incidents in Manila over the weekend.

Construction worker Edwin Caballes fought against Juanito Roque Sr., 52, and his son Juanito Jr., 20, but he managed to club both of them to death around 4 p.m. Saturday, police said.

Juanito Sr. had an argument with Caballes for still unknown reasons, said SPO1 Edmundo Cabal. The older man left after threatening to get back at Caballes.

Armed with bolos, father and son later confronted Caballes and attacked him near the corner of Hermosa Street and Dagupan Extension, police said.

Caballes was able to ward off the attack and allegedly beat them with a steel pipe. When father and son fell, he continued to hit them in the head, face and body, police said.

Caballes is still at large, police said.

In nearby Dagupan in Tondo, Arnel "Bagsik" Liang allegedly stabbed to death Felicisimo Lumbang, 55, for teasing a relative of Liang's around 11:30 a.m. Saturday.

Lumbang's daughter Marilon Hipolito said her father was swapping jokes with Liang's relative Ferlita near the corner of Almario and Perfecto streets minutes before the killing.

Liang, who was playing cards nearby, took offense at Lumbang's jokes and stabbed him with a fan knife, police said.

Liang also escaped, police said.

In Binondo, construction worker Bobby Ramos, 34, allegedly clubbed to death co-worker Glen Nanios, 30, and injured Galileo Sakay, 50, at a construction site near Soler and Masangkay streets. *Christian V. Esguerra*

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I won't stoop to Lara's level . . .

(From page A25)

learned that they were waiting for me at the coffee shop, I decided to join them."

Also in the group at the coffee shop that night were Gabinete, talent manager Jessica Rodriguez and Allona's husband, Gerald Lauron.

Jimenez paid Morena and Allona P20,000 each even when they were not able to perform at the party. Jimenez said it was his first time to meet Morena.

"She was bragging that she sings very well and she even asked me if I wanted to listen to her," he said. "That's why from the coffee shop, we agreed to move to the lobby lounge. But it was after midnight already and there was no more pianist in the lounge."

It was in the lounge where the sexual harassment happened, according to Morena. Rodriguez came to the defense of Jimenez.

"No congressman in his right mind would do something like that in public," Rodriguez told the Inquirer yesterday. "I've known him for three years now. There are so many waiters at the lobby lounge. They would have seen what was happening."

The Manila congressman was one of the principal sponsors during the wedding of Rodriguez and decathlon athlete David Bunevacz last December.

Congressman Jimenez, who was mistakenly identified in yesterday's report as a "councilor," is facing extradition to the United States for a string of cases, including making illegal campaign contributions and mail fraud.

"He (Jimenez) has a very pretty wife, Carol, and I know he loves her very much," Rodriguez said of her godfather.

"If Lara wants to be controversial, I wish she wouldn't do it at the expense of Tito Mark," she added.

In a TV interview on GMA 7's "S-Files" yesterday, Morena called Jimenez a "monster with a dirty hand."

"If I die anytime now, you know who to blame for it," she said.

8 waterless hours in 3 cities, 1 town

THE WHOLE of Las Piñas City and Bacoor, Cavite and portions of Pasay and Parañaque cities will experience 8 hours of water service interruption starting at 10 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 12, to 6 a.m. the following day. Maynilad Water Services Inc. said the water service interruption is due to the repair of a pipeline at the corner of Roxas Boulevard and Redemptorist Road in Pasay City and along Coastal Road near Fisherman's Wharf in Parañaque.

Except for Aguinaldo Highway and Panapaan 7, all of Bacoor will be waterless, Maynilad said. In Pasay City, the affected areas are along MIA Road, Pildera I and II, Sun Valley, Casino Filipino and Rivera Village. In Parañaque, to be affected are barangays Baclaran, Tambo, Don Galo, La Huerta, Sto. Niño, San Dionisio, Vitalez, San Isidro, the lower portions of San Antonio, BF Homes (El Grande Avenue), and along Ninoy Aquino Avenue. Customers affected by the water interruption are advised to store water good for 12 hours. They can also call Maynilad hotline 1626 for the water-rationing schedule.

Battling the hydra-headed monster of piracy in show biz

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

PIRACY in entertainment is such a vast, complex and hydra-headed problem that quite a number of show biz people frankly don't know where to start in trying to defeat the "monster."

Some organizations have been set up to combat the nefarious show biz pirates who churn out and sell bootleg copies of records, videotapes and VCDs with seeming impunity.

A number of raids have resulted in the confiscation of duplicating equipment and thousands of unlicensed tapes, but only hours after street peddlers have been fined and ordered to stop their illegal trade, they're back on the streets again, seemingly none the worse for wear.

What *can* decisively be done to put an end to this complex problem.

Last Wednesday, yet another anti-piracy group, the Thank You For the Music Foundation, announced the start of *its* campaign against the unlicensed the start of its sale of show biz products, specifically music albums and tapes.

The group's leaders and spokesperson served notice: "The Seventies come alive again on Sept. 27 as the entertainment industry consolidates its efforts against the biggest current threat, piracy.

"Concerned members of local showbiz have joined hands in the presentation, 'Thank You For the Music,' to be held at the Westin Philippine Plaza, to mark its 25th anniversary."

Rico J. Puno is the organization's interim head. The show's performers include Rico J., **Dulce, Jacqui Magno, Marco Sison, Chad Borja, Ding Mercado, Eugene Villaluz, Sampaguita, Mike Hanopol, Richard Merk** (all '70s artists), plus contemporary singers like **Ogie Alcasid, Janno Gibbs,** the Eraserheads, **Cesar Montano**, Freestyle, **Renz Verano, Rannie Raymundo, Ana Fegi, Bituin Escalante** and **Kristin Valdez.**

Proceeds from the presentation will fund the foundation's multimedia awareness-raising campaign to make the listening and buying public realize the negative effects of buying pirated tapes.

At the prescon, we asked the panelists at the head table how each one of them would solve the gargantuan problem of piracy.

Pat Castillo, TYFM producer and general manager of Wall City Entertainment, boosted the need for greater public awareness.

Mike Hanopol urged that stiffer penalties be enforced for both manufacturers and buyers, to dissuade them from engaging in the illicit trade.

Norma Japitana pushed for stronger and more comprehensive anti-piracy legislation. She pointed out that piracy had so sapped the entertainment industry's potential income and resources that many show biz workers were out of work.

She said the public should be made aware of this stark reality, to realize the dire consequences of their decision to buy pirated tapes because they were cheaper.

The Westin's **Rose Libango** pointed out that, to be truly effective, the fight against piracy should start with each one of us deciding *not* to buy pirated tapes, no matter how inexpensive they are. She said she would do that at the Westin, by not allowing the sale of pirated tapes during bazaars held at the hotel.

Rico J. Puno pushed for more comprehensive legislation, and urged the public to realize that piracy can be as nefarious as the drug trade, and could lead to the downfall of the entertainment industry, due to loss of income and royalties.

Chad Borja shared that, some years ago, Indonesia had the same problem with show biz pirates, but was able to solve it. We can do it too if we pool all our efforts together, he urged.

Richard Merk joined some of the other panelists in pushing for greater awareness, as did **Manny Viray**, president of Wall City Entertainment, and **Philip de Belen**, TYFM's marketing manager and general manager of PAC.Comm.

With such stalwarts involved in the TYFM foundation's crusade, we feel that it has a good chance of succeeding where some others have failed. When top entertainers sing out to protest in one voice, the show biz audience is bound to listen.

Ex-Mutya not ready to be Cesar Montano's other woman

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WHO is **Josephine Canonizado** and why is she controversial?

In her movie debut, she was immediately linked with her leading man, **Cesar Montano**, and she thus became the object of jealousy of Cesar's wife **Sunshine Cruz**.

Without even trying, Jo was suddenly thrust into the intrigue-filled world of show biz.

Jo, who was crowned Mutya ng Pilipinas Asia-Pacific 2000, is paired with Cesar in Maverick Films' "Mananabas."

It was fortuitous that when Jo won the "Mutya" title last year, Maverick Films was on the look-out for a fresh face to be Cesar's leading lady in an action movie.

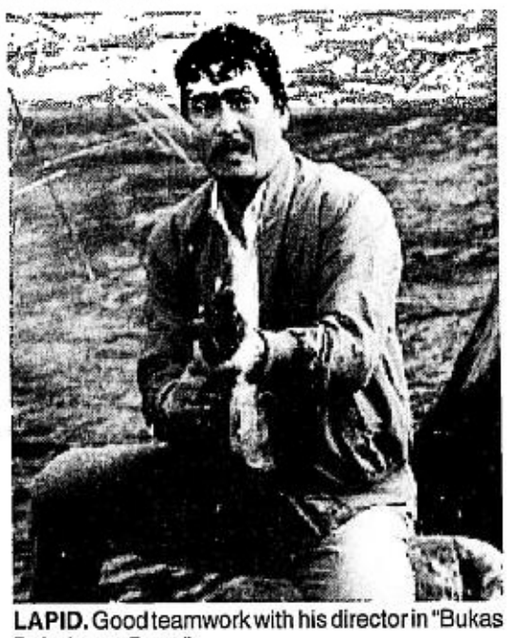
Jo was spotted by producer **Eric Cuatico**, who immediately sought out the newly crowned beauty queen through her talent manager, **Norma Japitana**. However, Japitana had to turn it down since Jo still had to fulfill her commitments as Mutya title holder.

Eric waited for nearly a year before making another offer. In "Mananabas," the beauty queen plays a newspaper reporter kidnapped by military officials for ransom. She is rescued by a soldier (Cesar), who leads a lost command known as "Oplan Tabas."

Like Cesar's wife Sunshine, Jo is a beauty queen and a sexy *mestiza*, that's probably why she got easily linked with the actor.

While she considers it a high moment in her life to be paired with Cesar—just like after she won the "Mutya" crown—Jo shuns the intrigues that go with her show biz ventures.

She says she admires Cesar as an actor. And when she accepted the film offer, she was told to expect intrigue and controversy, the staple of show biz. But being his other woman is farthest from her mind.



LAPID. Good teamwork with his director in "Bukas Babaha ng Dugo"

"Purely professional" is how Jo describes her relationship with Cesar during and after the filming.

Cesar himself directs "Mananabas" from a script by **Senen C. Dimaguila Jr.** Also in the movie are **Rommel Montano, Daniel Fernando, Spanky Manikan, Von Vivar** and Manny Ochoa, with the special participation of **Richard Merck**.

After starring with Cesar, Jo says she would love to work with other actors such as **Christopher de Leon, Aga Muhlach** and **Richard Gomez**.

She also looks up to **Vilma Santos, Sharon Cuneta** and **Maricel Soriano**.

Lito Lapid, survivor

ACTION film director **Baldo Marro**, who used to be a fight instructor for action stars, calls **Lito Lapid** a survivor.

"He (Lito) has gone through a lot in his career and personal life," Baldo says in Filipino. "From being a stuntman he became a big action star and is now Pampanga governor.

"He has also encountered a lot of trials in his show biz career and politics. But he has overcome all of those trials. You can never really put a good man down. No wonder he is well-loved by his constituents and his fans."

Baldo Marro reunites with Lito in Regal Entertainment's "Bukas Babaha ng Dugo." The actor-politician cannot be happier that he has another actioner for his fans, and that he is working again with Baldo Marro.

Lito notes his good teamwork with the director, who megged his earlier starrers like "Pasasabugin Ko ang Mundo Mo" and "Huwag Mong Ubusin ang Bait Ko."

"Bukas Babaha ng Dugo" displays the collaboration of Lito and Baldo Marro in the high-caliber action scenes, coupled with death-defying stunts, which Lito has always been known for.

"I wanted the stunts to be different from the ones I did before," Lito says.

In the movie, Lito plays a former military man who goes after his colleagues who have gone AWOL and tricked him into a "mission" which turned out to be a bank heist.

Raking it in

JUST when blockbusters are scarce, Star Cinema hits it big with the **Judy Ann Santos-Piolo Pascual** starrer, "Bakit 'Di Totohanin."

The movie, directed by **Boots Plata**, continues to draw crowds all over the country. It is projected to rake in P100 million during its run.

The last box office hit in local cinema was the **Aga Muhlach-Regine Velasquez** reunion, "Pangako Ikaw Lang" from Viva Films.

Star Cinema is optimistic that its next big release, "La Vida Rosa," will be another blockbuster. The film is directed by **Chito Roño**, with **Rosanna Roces** and **Diether Ocampo** as lead stars.

'Phonetics'

I AM guilty of texting while driving. But along the South Luzon Expressway, I am warned and reminded by Nokia billboards that say, "Hands on the wheel, not on your phone."

The billboards are part of Nokia's "Phonethics" campaign which reminds people to use their cell phones in the right places.

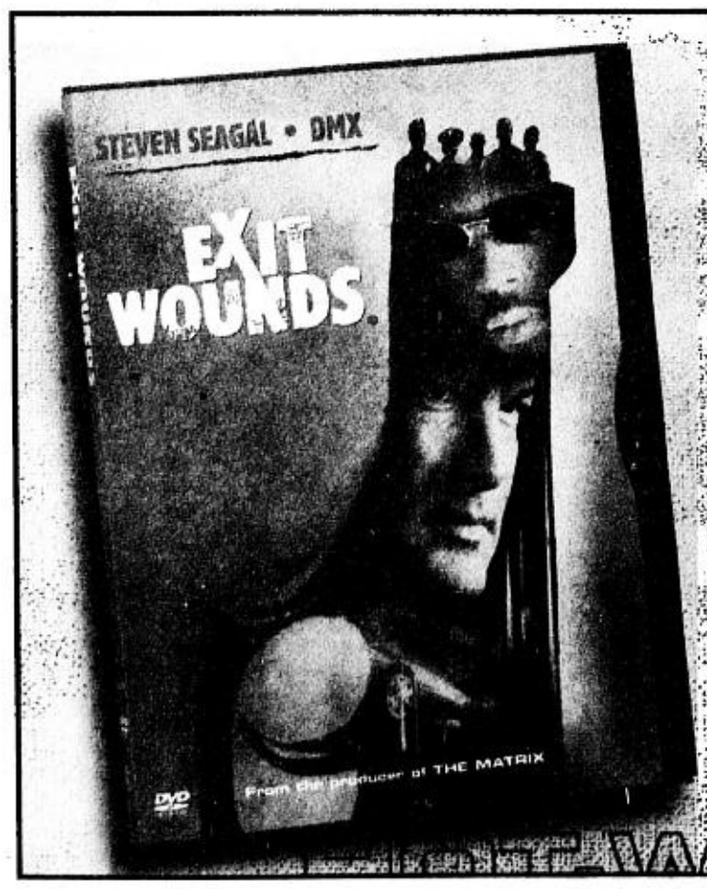
On TV, Nokia airs a series of commercials about the responsible use of cell phones, like putting the phone on silent mode when inside the classroom or a place of worship.

We hope mobile phone users will be considerate enough to heed Nokia's campaign.

CANONIZADO. She was suddenly trust into the intrigue-filled world of show biz.

SM SNEAK PREVIEW CINEMA
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PRETTY WOMAN & RUNAWAY BRIDE
JULLIE ANDREWS ANNE HATHAWAY
THE PRINCESS DIARIES
September 10 (Monday) & 11 (Tuesday)
SM Megamall, North EDSA, Centerpoint, Manila, Southmall, Bacoor, Fairview, Sucat, Tutuban
MTRCB GP
Tickets available at SM Cinemas.

zed
Knock-knock yourself out with zed Joke of the Day.
Tickle your funny bone with your cell phone! Download zed Joke of the Day and ha-ha-have yourself an instant laugh trip.
For keywords of other zed services, type in KEYS and send to 288.
How to get the Joke of the Day:
1 Type in keyword. Ex. JOKE
2 Send to 288.
3 You will receive the joke of the Day.
Available exclusively to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers. P2.50 per joke of the Day.



HOT-WIRE ACTION EXPLODES!
EXIT WOUNDS DVD VIDEO
LOADED, HOT FEATURES!
• THE MAKING OF EXIT WOUNDS
• DMX "AIN'T NO SUNSHINE" MTV
• DOLBY DIGITAL 5.1 AUDIO
• 16 X 9 WIDESCREEN FORMAT
• CAST/FILMMAKER CAREER HIGHLIGHTS
• CHOICE OF LANGUAGE/SUBTITLES
SIMULTANEOUS U.S. & PHILS. RELEASE (*SRP: P895 ONLY)
ALSO AVAILABLE ON VHS & VCD
WARNER HOME VIDEO
WILD ACTION EXPLODES

zed
Will you and your blind date end up as a blind item?
Find out with zed Flames on your cell phone.
Available exclusively to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers. P2.50 per destiny. For keywords of other zed services, type in KEYS and send to 288.
To find out your destiny:
1 Type in FLAMES <NAME1> <NAME2> Ex. FLAMES FRANK SHARON
2 Send to 288.
3 You will receive your destiny.

GAME KA

ITO ANG JACKPOT COMBIN

MONDAY-FRIDAY COMBO•NALO

Ang top-rating evening habit ng buong bayan.

PANGAKO SA 'YO

May puwang pa kaya si Benjie sa puso ni Angeline?

SA DULO NG WALANG HANGGAN

Panibagong hadlang sa pagmamahalang Patricia at Jordan.

SA PUSO KO, IINGATAN KA

Opo, makakapilíng mo na siya tuwing gabi! Saan na kaya hahantong ang pag-ibig nila ni Miguel?

CAMILA

New Show

MONDAY COMBO•NALO

Raratsada na ang tren ng harl ng komedya.

HOME ALONG DA RILES

New Show

Tuloy ang paglutas ng mga sensational crime stories.

KABALIKAT

TUESDAY COMBO•NALO

Mas nakapanghihilakbot!

!OKA TOKAT

New Show

Sakay na sa biyaheng nakaka-kabag sa katatawanan.

PWEDENG-PWEDE

New Show

WEDN COMB

Hubaran natin si Adan! The naughtiest comedy trio in town shows us w it really takes to be a man. With RICO YAN, MARVIN AGUSTIN, DOMINIC OCHOA & Al-Al DE LAS ALAS.

WHATTAMEN

New Show

THU COMB

Pakinggan naman natin si Ebal It's vavavoom night as we eavesdrop on girls really have on their minds. With JESSA ZARAGOZA, VANESSA DEL B DESIREE DEL VALLE, ANDREA DEL ROSARIO & MICHELLE BAYL

ATTAGIRL

New Show

SURE WIN

At kilalanin ang babaeng babago sa mukha

A NA BA?

ATION NINYO GABI-GABI SA TV!

GBN

ETIME

NALO

FRIDAY
COMBO•NALO

Dalawang oras ng Pinoy movie hits.
Mga big time pelikulang pumatok sa takilya!

STAR CINEMA PRESENTS

SATURDAY
COMBO•NALO

Mga nagbabagang talakayan kasama si Kabayan.

MAGANDANG GABI, BAYAN

A load of family, a spice of neighbors,
a pinch of good deeds & huge portions of laughter.
'Yan ang magic potion ni Mary -
at walang hocus pocus 'to!
With **MARICEL SORIANO.**

MARY D' POTTER

New Time!

Bibang-biba ang laughing trip ng pamilya.

ARRIBA! ARRIBA!

Si Edgard na heredero,
isa nang piloto.
At dahil wala si Papa,
si Joyce - piloto na!
With **AGA MUHLACH,**
JOYCE JIMENEZ
& RODERICK PAULATE.

DA PILYA EN DA PILOT

New Show!

The groovin' and chattin' never stops.

KEEP ON DANCING

TUESDAY
O•NALO

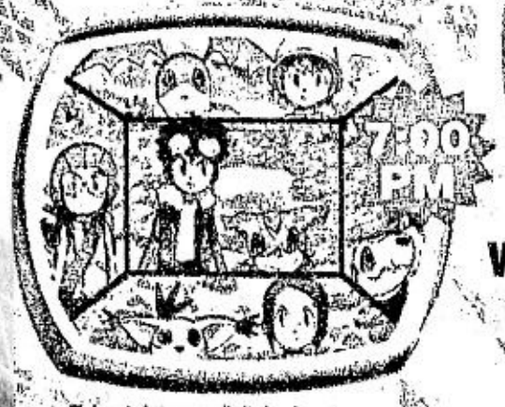
Makatotohanang courtroom drama.

YOUR HONOR

SUNDAY
COMBO•NALO

Usapang heart-to-heart with the mega.

SHARON



Tuloy-tuloy ang digital adventure ng
8 chosen children.

DIGIMON

New Day & Time!

Ang mundo ng magic at fantasy.

WANSAPANATAYM

New Time!

RSDAY
O•NALO

Sa pagpapatuloy ng kanilang anibersaryo -
ang kauna-unahang back-to-back drama special
ni Ms Sharon Cuneta
Hosted by Ms Charo Santos.

MAALAALA MO KAYA

Ang kakaiba at kagilagilalas na gaing ng Pinoy.

PINOY EXPOSED

New Day & Time

Blockbuster movies, specials and documentaries at their finest.

ABS-CBN PRESENTS

I KA DITO!

ng telenovela - ALICIA. Ngayong 11.30am na!

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173888

1 CROCODILE 2
2 SEX MEDUSA
3 RUSH HOUR 2
4 PRINCESS DIARIES
5 A.I.
6 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 SHREK
8 PAREHAS ANG LABAN

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522-7161418

1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 CROCODILE 2
3 A.I.
4 SHREK
5 RUSH HOUR 2
6 PAREHAS ANG LABAN
7 PRINCESS DIARIES
8 A.I.
9 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10 PLANET OF THE APES

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9358749

1 RUSH HOUR 2
2 PLANET OF THE APES
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 A.I.
5 CROCODILE 2
6 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 RUSH HOUR 2
8 A.I
9 PRINCESS DIARIES
10 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11 SHREK
12 PAREHAS ANG LABAN

SM CITY MANILA 5236340

1 A.I.
2 CROCODILE 2
3 PRINCESS DIARIES
4 RUSH HOUR 2
5 PLANET OF THE APES
6 A.I.
7 PAREHAS ANG LABAN
8 SHREK
9 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10 TEENAGE SEDUCTION
11 RUSH HOUR 2
12 CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL

SM MEGAMALL 6331931 • 6329481

1 A.I.
2 PLANET OF THE APES
3 A.I.
4 RUSH HOUR 2
5 RUSH HOUR 2
6 CROCODILE 2
7 PAREHAS ANG LABAN
8 SHREK
9 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10 PRINCESS DIARIES
11 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
12 SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

SM TUTUBAN 2314382

1 A.I.
2 RUSH HOUR 2
3 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4 PRINCESS DIARIES

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1 CROCODILE 2
2 A.I.
3 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4 PAREHAS ANG LABAN
5 PRINCESS DIARIES
6 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 A.I.
8 RUSH HOUR 2
9 SHREK
10 RUSH HOUR 2
11 SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
12 PLANET OF THE APES

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888

1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 RUSH HOUR 2
4 PRINCESS DIARIES
5 PLANET OF THE APES
6 SHREK
7 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
8 A.I.
9 CROCODILE 2
10 PAREHAS ANG LABAN

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820805

1 PAREHAS ANG LABAN
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 RUSH HOUR 2

SM CEBU 2313876

1 A.I
2 SHREK
3 SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
4 COMMAND & CONQUER
5 IRA
6 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 ANIMAL

SM ILOILO 3309402

1 COOL DUDES
2 CLOSED
3 BROTHERHOOD
4 ANIMAL
5 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6 A.I
7 CLOSED
8 SHREK

SM PAMPANGA 7128815

1 RUSH HOUR 2
2 BROTHERHOOD
3 SHREK
4 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5 SEX MEDUSA
6 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SM SUCAT 8294275

1 RUSH HOUR 2
2 A.I.
3 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4 PRINCESS DIARIES

SM DAVAO

1
2
3 SOON TO OPEN 6 STATE-OF-THE-ART MOVIE THEATERS
4
5
6

dts SOUND DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

AYALA CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING

YOUR 24-HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS 729 - 7777
reserve seats through www.sureseats.com

GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD)

1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 RUSH HOUR 2
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 CROCODILE 2

GLORIETTA 4 — in All Digital Sound

1 PRINCESS DIARIES (Adv. Screening) in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 XIU XIU: THE SENT DOWN GIRL (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND — Art Film
5 SHREK in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 RUSH HOUR 2 in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 RUSH HOUR 2 in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 RUSH HOUR 2 in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 PRINCESS DIARIES (Adv. Screening) in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE! SEPT. 15, 16, 21 & 22 - 9PM Onstage
5 RUSH HOUR 2 in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 PRINCESS DIARIES (Adv. Screening) in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 CROCODILE 2 in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 RUSH HOUR 2 in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest

FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) CROCODILE 2
2 (SDDS) RUSH HOUR 2
3 (DTS) A.I.
4 GOLD (DTS) MOULIN ROUGE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) A.I.
6 GOLD (SDDS) A.I.
7 GOLD (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES
8 (DTS) BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
9 (SDDS) BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10 (DOLBY) SHREK

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1 TEENAGE SEDUCTION
2
3 (DTS) RUSH HOUR 2
4
5
6 (DTS) Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3 (Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY) RUSH HOUR 2
2 (DTS) A.I.
3 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 831.6603

1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 A.I.
3 PAREHAS ANG LABAN

stormall Movies (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 REPLICANT
3 CROCODILE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) A.I.
5 PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Metropolis (Alabang) tel 543.4001

1 RUSH HOUR 2
2 BUBOT
3 PAREHAS ANG LABAN
4 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5 CROCODILE
6 A.I.
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA (Makati City) Tel. 7053152 - 55 — THX

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

1 SEX MEDUSA
2 PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3 RUSH HOUR 2

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1 CHAIN OF COMMAND
A NAKED EYE

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 A.I.
2 SEX MEDUSA
3 RESERVE
4 PAREHAS ANG LABAN

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY) RUSH HOUR 2
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 PAREHAS ANG LABAN
5 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6 CROCODILE
7 (DTS) A.I.
8 (SDDS) A.I.
9 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2 PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 PAREHAS ANG LABAN
4 (SDDS) PRINCESS DIARIES
5 CROCODILE 2
6 (DOLBY) RUSH HOUR 2
7 (DTS) A.I.
8 A.I.
9 RESERVE

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS) A.I.
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 CROCODILE 2
4 PAREHAS ANG LABAN
5 (SDDS) RUSH HOUR 2
6 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES
8 A.I.

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1 PRINCESS DIARIES
2 PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3 (DTS) A.I.
4 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5 (SDDS) RUSH HOUR 2

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1 PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson RED DIARIES
Lords RED DIARIES
Jennet RESERVE

Mandaluyong — THE MARKETPLACE tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 RUSH HOUR 2
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 RESERVE
4 A.I.

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

3 PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto

SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) A.I.
2 RUSH HOUR 2
3 PRINCESS DIARIES
4 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5 PAREHAS ANG LABAN

New Divisoria Mall

DIVISORIA CINEMA tel 244.4619

1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3 A.I.
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 SEX MEDUSA

Baclaran LRT

LRT CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY) BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3 RESERVE

Berma tel 879-2029 or 30

1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 PAREHAS ANG LABAN

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1 CROCODILE 2
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3
4

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 PRINCESS DIARIES
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS) A.I.

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
2 (DTS) BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DOLBY) A.I.
4 RUSH HOUR 2

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DOLBY) RUSH HOUR 2
3 (DTS) A.I.
4 PRINCESS DIARIES

Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1 CATS & DOGS
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) CROCODILE 2
2 PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4 (DTS) A.I.

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) RUSH HOUR 2
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS) A.I.
4 PRINCESS DIARIES
5 SEX MEDUSA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 A.I.
3 RUSH HOUR 2

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 536.5101

1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 RUSH HOUR 2
3 A.I.

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1 SHREK
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANINN
3 PARU PARONG LIGAW

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 A.I.
3 BROTHERHOOD

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DTS)

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2365

1 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 SEX MEDUSA
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 HUWAD NA HAYOP

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

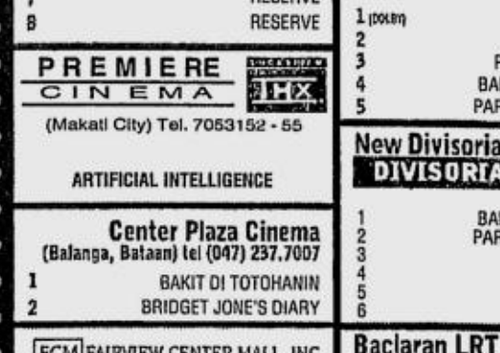
1 DUDURUGIN KO...
2 A.I
3 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4 SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

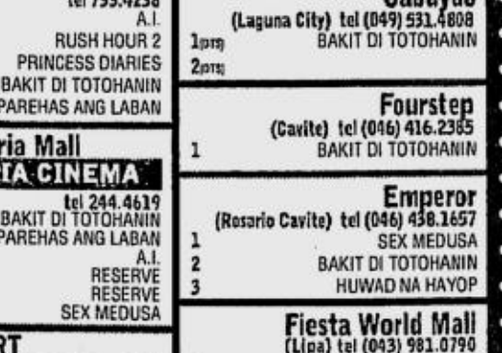
Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY) TEENAGE DIARY
2 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 BROTHERHOOD
4 (DTS) RUSH HOUR 2

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING — THX DOLBY dts SDDS





ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

NOW SHOWING

State-Of-The-Art-Cinemas

GALLERIA 632 9115-16 / 633-7541 loc. 279

11 (THX) A.I.
2 A.I.
3 CROCODILE 2
4 SHREK
5 RUSH HOUR 2
6 RUSH HOUR 2
7 MOULIN ROUGE
8 CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
9 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10 A.I.

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1 A.I.
2 RUSH HOUR 2
3 SHREK
4 A.I.
5 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6 RUSH HOUR 2
7 CROCODILE 2

NOVALICHES 935-3229 to 31

1 RESERVED FOR PRIVATE EVENT
2 A.I.
3 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4 A.I.
5 RUSH HOUR 2
6 CROCODILE 2
7 RUSH HOUR 2
8 SHREK

IMUS (046) 471-8188

1 RUSH HOUR 2
2 CROCODILE 2
3 SHREK
4 A.I.
5 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6 PAREHAS ANG LABAN

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1 SHREK
2 PLANET OF THE APES
3 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4 BROTHERHOOD
5 ANIMAL
6 VENUS

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	CROCODILE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	KASIBULAN/ TURN ON
ODEON	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ODEON-2	RUSH HOUR 2
ROBEN	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	WOMAN ON TOP/ VALENTINE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	TOMB RAIDERS / GET CARTER
QUEZON-1	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
REMAR	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
REMAR-2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
B	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-76-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CINEMA-2	PRINCESS DIARIES

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
CINEMA-3	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A.I.
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-6	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-7	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-8	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	A.I.
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	A.I.
CINEMA-12	CROCODILE 2
CINEMA-14	SHREK
CINEMA-15	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-3	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CINEMA-4	SHREK
CINEMA-5	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-6	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	NAKALIMOT SA PAG-IBIG
CINEMA-2	EVANGELINE KATORSE
CINEMA-4	OUTRAGE

MONTERO

Troy turns celebrity endorser

IN ITS commitment to give Filipinos abroad great service and excellent product lines, international marketing and telecommunications firm Pilipinas International Marketing Services Inc. (PIMS) goes full-blast advertising and marketing as it signed up Filipino-American hunk Troy Montero to a two-year contract as the company's first image model and product endorser.

Troy, whose good-looks have captured the hearts of many Filipinos, proves to be a good choice as the image model of the company.

Enjoying an admirable career in show biz, Troy is swamped with numerous TV appearances, hosting jobs, movies, commercial endorsements, out-of-town shows and now as PIMS image model.

PIMS, with entertainment writer and PR practitioner Aster Amoyo as managing director, was founded in January 1999. It is a subsidiary of IPS Inc., based in Japan.

Today, PIMS operates as a full-customer support center and consumer-based firm, having been expanded to selling prepaid cards, offering tele-shopping, appliance and furniture order and delivery, door-to-door cargo service, and other services which cater to the needs of Filipinos abroad.

Although only three years in the business, PIMS has established networks in Japan, USA and Hong Kong, and is now eyeing partnership with other foreign telemarketing organizations

PIMS cards are distributed in Japan, USA and Hong Kong.

As part of his role, Troy's photographs appear in PIMS prepaid cards, billboards and other promotional materials.

Next year, Troy will share the stage with concert queen Pops Fernandez and the country's premiere band, Side A, in a show at the Nakano Sun Plaza Hall in Tokyo, Japan, Feb. 3, 2002.

Not everybody knows that Troy is a singer. He is now waxing an album under Dyna Music.

PIMS and IPS Japan will produce the concert.

Movies on videos

C-INTERACTIVE releases action-packed movies on videos.

"Surface to Air" stars Michael Madsen as a lieutenant tasked to lead the best and brightest of his class of Navy Pilots to a coup d'etat. With Chad McQueen.

"Terminal Hush" stars Don Wilson.

"Sonic" Impact stars James Russo as an FBI agent who goes after a notorious terrorist.

Added to the package is Lito Lapid's "Labrador," under Regal Home Video.

For details, call 245-5011 to 12.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

The power of fate

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I CAUGHT the trailer of the film "Serendipity" when we watched "Rush Hour 2." The tag line of the film grabbed my attention, and it's been playing in my mind these past couple of weeks. The line goes, "When destiny has a sense of humor . . . you call it serendipity."

I looked up the meaning of serendipity and the word was coined in 1754 by Horace Walpole after his tale "The Three Princess of Serendip" because of the "discoveries" that they made. In essence, it means "an apparent aptitude for making fortunate discoveries by accident."

Further expounding on this, I do believe in the power of fate. There are times, though, that immaturity prevents us from embracing what's a part of our destiny and appreciating those who help us fulfill that destiny. Fear would then prevent us from having enough faith that God only gives us what it is that we can handle.

I can't go into specifics just yet, but there are many changes in my professional life at this particular juncture that I know will have a significant impact on where my life is ultimately headed. Maybe that's why I draw comfort from the trailer's tag line. For as long as I can still laugh at myself, and for as long as I somehow manage to inadvertently stumble onto lucky accidents that seem to inexplicably dot the landscape I travel, then I know I'm still okay.

Prayers

There's a line in the novena prayer to our Mother of Perpetual Help that goes this way, "Make us aware that God never ceases to love us; that He answers all our prayers in the way that is best for us." I'm not going to go all preachy on you. After all, *'di bagay sa 'kin.*

But for the longest time I was asking God for certain things, certain concessions maybe, yet He didn't give me what all along I thought I wanted and needed. I figured that if I was very specific then I'd make it easier on Him.

But I didn't know best. He obviously does, and the doors that God has opened, I'd never even imagined knocking on them.

Going back to the film "Serendipity," to quote from Entertainment Weekly's Fall Movie Preview double issue, "John Cusack and Kate Beckinsale meet one lucky moment and end up talking through the night as they stroll the streets of Gotham. Despite mutual crushes, she decides to leave a second meeting to chance. And as chance would have it, that next encounter takes a decade, when she's engaged and he's just days from walking down the aisle."

For a movie, that's a very cute plot. And because it's a movie, then most likely they'll end up together. But in reality, when you meet someone and you have "mutual crushes," why bother to even tempt fate?

Innermind games

Like most girls, I'd play these little innermind games. For example, I'd think that if he sent a *pasalubong* after having gone on a trip abroad then it must mean he thought of me during the trip, hence that's the sign that he probably really likes me. Of course if there's no *pasalubong*, I'm heartbroken because that was the sign that he wasn't interested.

Or you tell yourself that if we get to talk within the day then it's meant to be. If he doesn't then that's the sign to stay away. But what if he's in a place that's a cellular phone deadspot, or you failed to take your phone off the "silent" mode?

What I'm trying to say is that finding someone you can converse with for the entire night, someone that you'd want to be in a relationship with, is difficult enough. Sustaining the initial attraction is the next risky step. And making a go of the partnership takes enormous effort. With so many odds already stacked against you, why are you out to make it more difficult? Unless, of course, either of you is already committed to someone else, then that's a whole other story. But if you're both single, consenting adults, then don't put up any more obstacles. In other words, *'wag nang magpa*-cute!

When I was younger, life that didn't have dramatic highs and lows, just didn't cut it for me. Sometimes, I'd even create my own problems, especially where loving was concerned.

We women grew up expecting a fairy tale, or a Silhouette or Harlequin romance ending. But come on, "Shrek" had a unique ending because it bucked convention. The princess remained an ogre even after being kissed by her true love. Regardless of not being beautiful, she was loved.

Although the circumstances surrounding the meeting of your true love or the opening of a new career path may well be the results of weird quirks of fate, but in the end as they say, *"Sa Diyos ang awa, pero sa tao pa rin ang gawa."*

Davao radio, TV workers oppose 'violent' move to raise tax

BY AYAN C. MELLEJOR,
PDI Mindanao Bureau

RADIO and television talents in Davao City are up in arms over the plan of the Bureau of Internal Revenue to impose a 20 percent withholding tax on their income.

Radio and television networks in Davao City have received notice that the BIR would start to impose the tax this month.

Leo Villareal, head writer of GMA 5 television network in Davao City, described the new tax policy as a "violent" move.

"That may be fine if we were earning big money," Villareal said. "It's time for those in Mindanao to oppose the move."

Villareal said BIR officials, before making new policies, should consider the economic situation of television and radio talents in Davao City.

GMA 5 has 27 workers, including those working for the weekly variety show "Singgit Dabaw."

Villareal said the lowest pay received by a GMA 5 employee is P4,500, and the highest P7,000.

He said that with the 20 percent tax, local radio and TV workers would be left with not much for their daily needs.

Lirio Cabsaba, BIR chief for Southern Mindanao, said she would welcome any petition against the implementation of the tax, and promised to forward it to the BIR main office in Manila.

"We are just implementing the law," Cabsaba told the INQUIRER. "If the employers would not implement this, they would be penalized."

The Corrs live at the Big Dome

THREE sisters and one brother make up The Corrs.

Vocalist Andrea, drummer Caroline, violinist Sharon and guitarist-keyboard player Jim got their big break when Grammy-winning producer David Foster auditioned them in New York. Foster took personal charge of their first album, "Forgiven, Not Forgotten." Released in 1995, the album made the siblings international stars and eventually turned multi-platinum in six territories and gold in six more.

The Corrs' second album, "Talk on Corners," made the group one of the biggest groups in the world of popular music as it contains some of their most unforgettable songs, "Dreams," "So Young" and "What Can I Do."

In The Corrs' latest album "In Blue," music lovers will find some of the most moving songs ever written by the group like "Breathless," "Irresistible" "At Your Side" and the soulful "No More Cry."

In the movie "America's Sweethearts," starring two of the most popular stars in Hollywood, Julia Roberts and Catherine Zeta-Jones, The Corrs' latest single, "All the Love in the World," is included in the movie soundtrack.

On Sept. 30, fans will get to see and hear the group in a show billed "The Corrs Live in Manila," at the Araneta Coliseum. The show is presented by Nokia, with Jag Jeans, Continental Tires and FWD Magazine.

Tickets are on sale at SM Ticketnet outlets.

To all ticket holders, please be reminded that all tickets should be validated at the Ticketnet Main box office located at the Araneta Coliseum near the Red Gate.

All tickets should be validated not later than Sept. 15. Only validated tickets will be honored on Sept. 30. For inquiries, call 911-5555.

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This family-friendly fun movie also stars pop singing sensation Mandy Moore in her first big screen performance and Hector Elizondo ("Pretty Woman") with soundtrack cuts from BBMak, Backstreet Boys, Aaron Carter, Hanson, Myra, 3Gs, Krystal Harris and many more. On SEPT. 19, troop to the cinemas and meet the newest member of the ruling class.

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THREE SEASONS
Starring: Harvey Keitel, Lola Al Guimond, Don Duong & Nguyen Ngoc Hiep
Three Seasons tells three tangentially related stories: a romance between a forward-thinking prostitute and a cyclo driver; a street kid who loses his case of cheap trinkets; and a student of a reclusive teacher/poet who has lost his fingers to leprosy. Each of the stories is quite simple, but together they create a complex, layered experience of a country simultaneously caught up in its own past, present and future.
Vietnamese-American Bui's film has the distinction of being the first American production to shoot in Vietnam since the War.A cinematic poem that works more as a reflective mood piece than a traditional story, Bui's lyrical script and Rinzler's magical camera work combine to create an original, lasting motion picture.
Language: Vietnamese w/ English sub-titles

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BUSINESS

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BEFORE U.S. FED MOVE

Interest rate cut looms

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

LOCAL financial markets need not wait much longer as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said its policy-making Monetary Board might cut overnight rates even before the US Federal Reserve brings down its rates again next month.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the plan of local monetary authorities was to bring down either overnight rates or the banks' reserve requirement.

He said the central bank was not keen on reducing both as a conservative stance calls for a gradual easing of monetary policy. In an earlier statement, Buenaventura said he saw a room for a quarter-point cut in overnight rates in the remaining months of the year.

The central bank currently pays an overnight interest rate of 9 percent for borrowing and charges 11.25 percent for lending. The commercial banks' reserve requirement stands at 20 percent.

"A reduction is inevitable. In the next couple of weeks, if it is justified, we might be able to do something. We can even do this before the US Fed cuts rates again," Buenaventura said.

The US Federal Reserve is scheduled to meet in the first week of October and the US market is expecting it to cut interest rates by a quarter or half percentage point.

Buenaventura said the central bank was validating whether the decline in inflation of 6.3 percent in August from 6.7 percent in July could be sustained.

The lower-than-expected inflation figure for August complemented a higher-than-expected growth in gross domestic product of 3.3 percent during the second quarter against a projected 3-percent growth target.

"The intention is still to bring down interest rates and to have sufficient liquidity in the system," Buenaventura said.

The central bank chief noted that threats to inflation were still visible, including a renewed weakness of the peso as well as an emerging uptrend in oil prices.

The peso slid to 51.38 to a dollar last Friday from the previous day's close of P51.33. The local currency was on a consistent downtrend last week although the movement was modest compared to the volatile situation from late June to July.

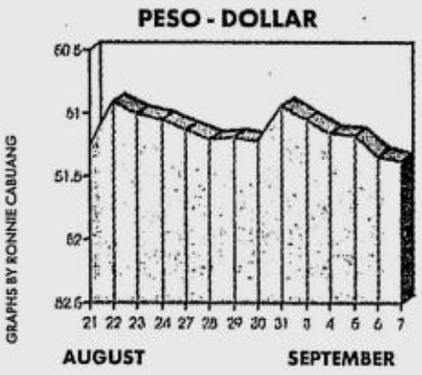
While oil prices have slid, the central bank chief said the approaching winter in Western countries could push world crude prices up and, consequently,

INTEREST/ B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

51.38 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
Sept. 7, 2001

121.21 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
Sept. 7, 2001

GOLD:$272.50/273.00

per ounce Hong Kong,
Sept. 7, 2001

Foreign brokers dominate trading

BIG foreign brokers continued to dominate trading activities in the battered Philippine stock market.

But as the local bourse still remained in the doldrums since the start of the year, the heavier foreign broker activity relative to local activity did not necessarily mean that foreign bargain-hunters were coming back, analysts said.

In some cases, analysts said the heavier value turnout from foreign participants could also mean the phasing out of some local equity exposure.

Merrill Lynch Securities Philippines Inc., for instance, ranked as the top broker from January to August this year, according to a report from the Philippine Stock Exchange. Merrill accounted for 6.61 percent of the market's total value turnover for the period.

Last month, the US-based investment house announced that it was leaving the Philippine market and selling its local brokerage unit to the company's Filipino management team. The company will thus become an independent local brokerage house to be named Philippine Equity Partners Securities Inc.

JP Morgan Securities Philippines Inc. ranked a close second to Merrill, accounting for 6.49 per-

FOREIGN/ B3

SPECIAL REPORT

RP gets poor mark in public service

Page B10

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Germans to oversee Naia-3

GERMAN specialists from the world famous Frankfurt Airport will compose a team set to supervise operations, planning and management of the new Ninoy Aquino International Airport-International Passenger Terminal 3 (Naia-3).

Ten German Fraport AG specialists have been in the country since 1999 to help in the planning and coordination of architectural and operational procedures in the construction of the new terminal.

Fraport AG, owner and operator of Frankfurt Airport, currently holds a direct 30-percent stake in Philippine International Air Terminal Co. Inc. (Piatco), which is financing, planning, constructing and operating the new terminal as a build-operate-transfer project. Frankfurt Airport is considered as one of the world's best airports, comparable with those in Singapore, Chicago, Hong Kong, Dubai and Atlanta.

More German experts are expected to arrive in the country to provide support to the team already in Manila assigned to undertake Fraport AG's consulting activities durZing the project period and the start-up of operations.

"This is a further important step in making this international project a success," said Fraport AG's Johannes Endler, executive director for the company's finance and traffic and retail department.

GERMANS/ B5

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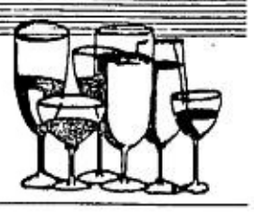
The importance of being Ernest

COCKTALES



By Victor C. Agustin

WHEN Justice Secretary Hernando Perez was secretly negotiating with "fugitive" businessman, now congressman, Mark Jimenez in the early days of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration, there was one private individual who was always beside Perez in his talks with Jimenez.

That person, apparently acting as the go-between, was none other than Ernest Escaler, owner of the Tagaytay-based Gourmet Café chain.

According to eyewitness accounts, Escaler hosted meetings between Perez and Jimenez in his Rockwell penthouse unit. Besides Perez and Jimenez, other key DOJ officials were also present in the said meetings, although none of the DOJ staffers were sure as to what official designation, if any, Escaler had played in the secret negotiations.

A friend of Escaler's, who has heard of the meetings, claimed that Escaler was merely acting on a mission for President Macapagal-Arroyo in order to secure Jimenez's testimony against ousted President Estrada.

What was intriguing was that during the height of the negotiations, on Feb. 14, exactly $2 million was allegedly ordered transferred from the Trade and Commerce Bank in Grand Cayman Islands to an alleged Escaler account with Coutts Bank in Hong Kong.

The money supposedly came from the bank account of Mark Jimenez in the Caymans, a favorite tax haven.

There are several pieces of alleged bank documents detailing the alleged transaction that are now in the hands of, ironically, both the opposition and the administration. Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson had even adverted to the Hong Kong transaction, early in the Victor Corpus exposé, when Lacson admitted going to the Chinese territory to investigate, Lacson claimed, a money-laundering/pay-off scheme that could possibly involve an Arroyo Cabinet member.

According to the grapevine, President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has known Escaler since her teenage days, has ordered a quiet but top-level investigation after being shown copies of the "incriminating" banks documents.

COCKTALES/ B4

Foreign brokers dominate trading

(From page B1)

cent of the total market turnover.

ING Barings Securities (Philippines) Inc. and UBS Warburg Securities (Philippines) Inc. ranked third and fourth, respectively.

Only six local brokers made it to the PSE's top 20 list, including banking affiliates BPI Securities Corp. and UCPB Securities Inc.(fifth and 10th, respectively).

Other top local brokers were: Abacus Securities Corp. (13th); Asiasec Equities Inc. (16th); and AB Capital Securities (17th).

Meanwhile, the other big foreign brokers in the top 20 list were: ABN AMRO Asia Securities (Philippines) Inc. (6th); Regis Partners Inc. (7th); Indosuez W.I. Carr Securities Inc. (8th), CLSA Philippines Inc. (9th), HSBC Securities Inc. (11th) and ATR Kim Eng Securities Inc. (12th).

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THE SPEAKER

Dr. Lanny Entrekin is currently a professor of Human Resource Management at the Murdoch Manila MBA Program. He has 27 years experience in the HR field as a consultant, professor, and researcher. He has worked extensively in South East Asia and has carried out over 20 missions for the United Nations agency, the International Labor Organization (ILO). His major interests include Performance Management, Organizational Structure & Design, and Strategic Human Resource Management.

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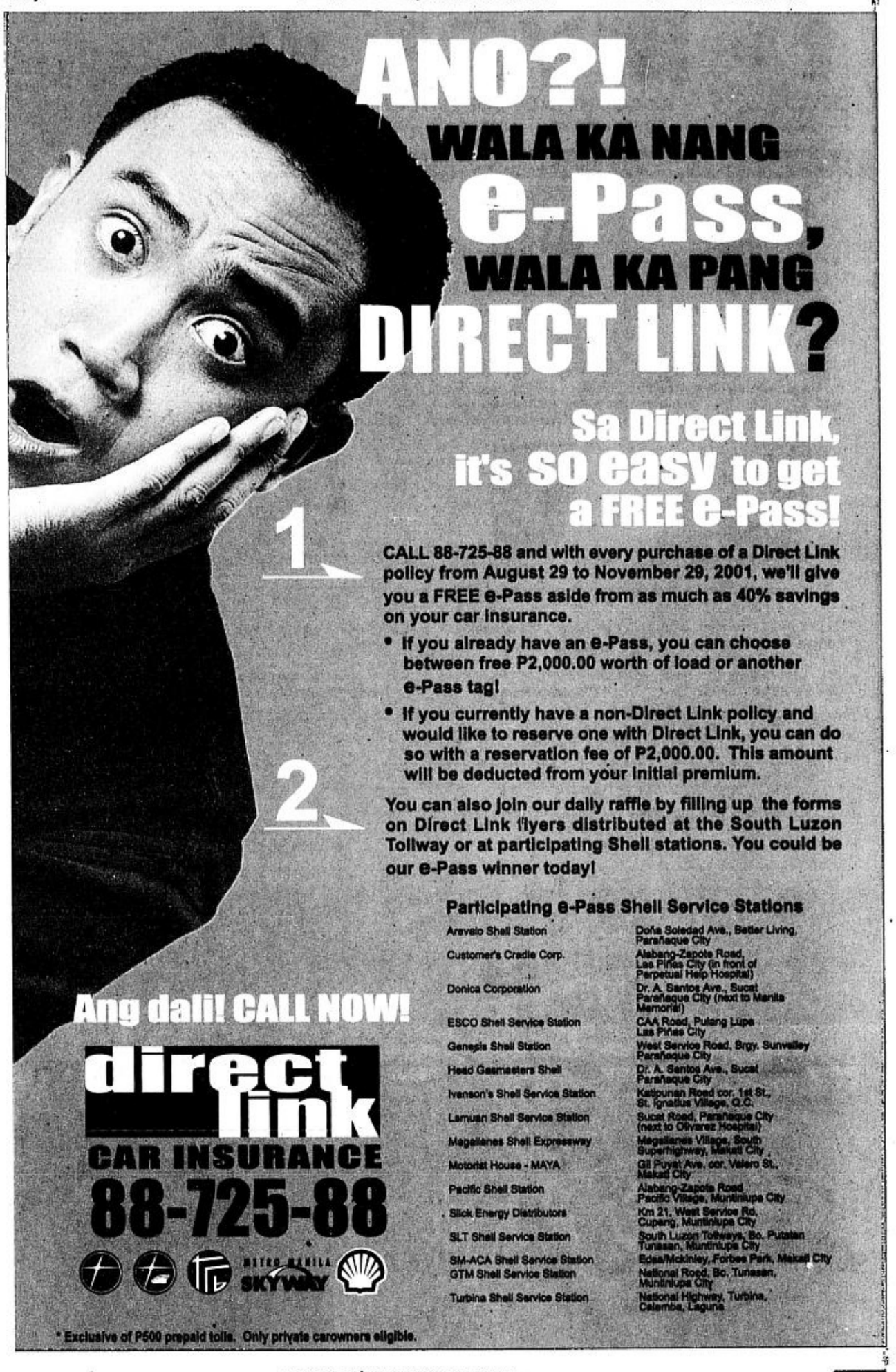

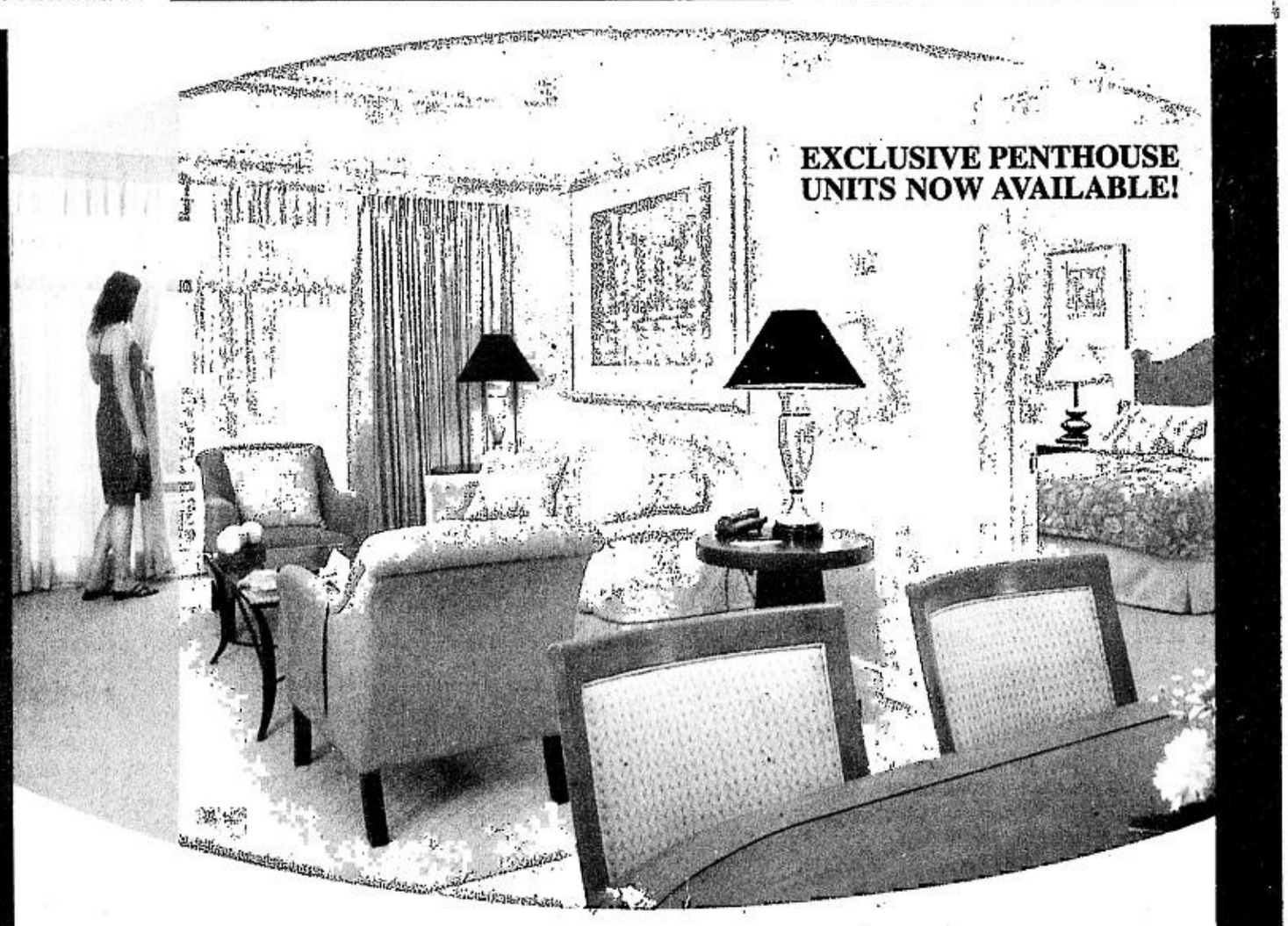

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Cocktales . . .

(From page B3)

Depending on who you talk to, Escaler was supposed to have either bought the foreign exchange from Jimenez at sub-market rates or that Escaler received a dollar-denominated loan from Jimenez.

What is giving credence to all these skullduggeries is that copies of the alleged bank documents were supposedly leaked by no less than Jimenez himself.

Now why, if this is correct, would the gentleman from Pandacan do that?

Heard through the grapevine

WHY is it that a PSG back-up vehicle is always seen parked along Amapola St. in Bel-Air Village even at nights? Who could be paying frequent calls on whom? *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

Interest

(From page B1)

bring local pump prices higher.

A weaker currency tends to be inflationary as more pesos are released into the system every time a local dollar earner converts foreign exchange.

Similarly, an oil price increase leads to higher transport fares and jacks up the prices of food and other commodities.

Monetary authorities have raised the banks' liquidity reserves by two percentage points twice, one in late July and another in the first week of August. From 7 percent, the liquidity reserves now stand at 11 percent while the statutory reserves were kept at 9 percent.

The increase in reserves mopped up about P55 billion in excess money from the system that otherwise could have been used to speculate against the peso and, in turn, raised inflation.

Napocor seeks risk cover for $400-M bond float

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

STATE-RUN National Power Corp. and its US-based loan underwriter Bear Stearns are seeking a political risk insurance from an international firm to bring down the cost of a planned $400-million, seven-year bond issue.

The risk insurance should bring down the cost of Napocor's borrowing by as much as half-a-percentage point. The bond issue through a private placement is scheduled within the month.

A well-placed source said that getting a risk insurance was still cheaper for the power firm compared to a wider spread it had to pay given its ailing finances.

Proceeds of Napocor's long-term borrowing would be used to settle maturing debts of about $300 million and support capital expenses. The power firm needs to raise $530 million this year to repay debts and finance its operations.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said that part of the money to be raised from the private placement of Bear Stearns would be used to pay the power firm's P3-billion borrowing from the national government.

Last week, Napocor issued P3 billion worth of three-month bonds that the national government purchased.

Even with full sovereign guarantee, any Napocor borrowing becomes more expensive since investors perceive any exposure to the Philippines as risky. A seven-year Philippine debt issue trading in the secondary market is currently priced at five percentage points over US treasury rates.

A source said the Napocor would have to pay an additional 0.75 to one percentage point spread to investors without any risk insurance.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura explained that the political risk insurance would give investors an extra "comfort level" to ensure that the borrowing would be honored even in case of a debt moratorium.

"An insurance tends to lower the cost of the borrowing," said the central bank chief.

The BSP chief, however, stressed that investors should not fear a debt moratorium from any Philippine borrower.

"The Philippines has a good track record despite the change in leadership. We have honored our obligations," he said.

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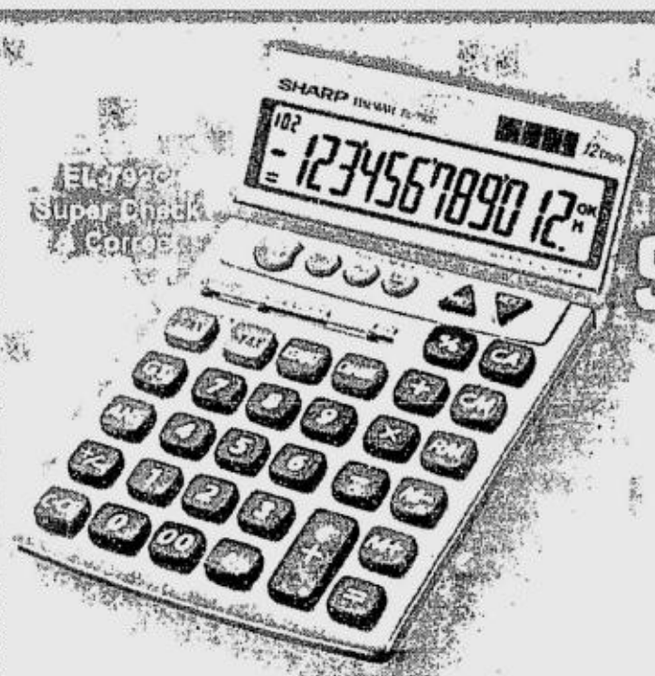

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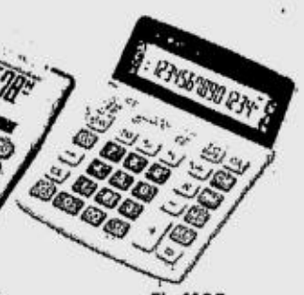

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Losing opportunities

ON THE MONEY

John Mangun

WITH the stock market finishing the past week on a strong note, I would like to get excited about it.

The numbers were better than they have been for several months. Peso value turnover was respectable. There was a good mix of stocks that rose in value. Participation was across the board meaning the "little guys" as well as the larger investors bought shares.

Technically, the market followed the action of PLDT (TEL). PLDT hit its support area of below 500 and in came the buying. Overall that is a fairly good sign.

The only problem is that two days do not make a turnaround in this market. However, we have to start somewhere and at sometime and this is as good as any.

Many of the big company stocks are performing quite well. We will run up against a price level soon that will cause people to take any profits that they might have. In fact, the Phisix closed at a strong resistance level last Friday at 1,300. The good news is the next danger point is near 1,400.

You have to remember that we have only experienced two weeks of positive action in the last 12. In fact, since the new administration took over, or for the last 32 weeks, only nine have been positive. The stock market has lost more than 20 percent of its value since the President assumed office. So any up days are happy days.

Coming into the market at the closing prices last Friday might be a little bit risky. I would prefer to wait and see what happens. That is, if prices fall back a little, that would be a go time to buy.

Likewise, if prices continue to go up a bit more, that too would be a good place to enter.

As much as I would like to rally around the market, individual stocks do not look as good as the market in general. However, that might be a good sign. If you are interested in investing, key your eye on PLDT for clues again.

Hoping to continue to discuss another area of economic prospect, I had one of my sons do some Internet research on tourism. I truly think this is another area of economic activity that has only been given lip service for the last 20 years. If it were not for Boracay back in the 1980s, we would never have been on the map. You will be pleased to know that the Philippines is now on the map.

Virtually every website that discussed Philippine tourism carried the same warning about the problems in Mindanao. Of course, no distinction was made between the east and west parts of the island. Caution was given against traveling to Sulu or Basilan islands. Will the three of you who have ever been to either place, please raise your hand. Not exactly the heart of the Philippine tourism industry.

The warning carried on to speak about the dangers of traveling by pump boat. "There are 100 ferry accidents a year in the Philippines." That's true.

100 accidents (90 percent of which are caused by bad weather) out of a million trips a year. I think I have a greater risk of being run down by a crazed carabao than drowning on a pump boat, if I refrain from traveling during typhoons. Of course, most Manila inhabitants don't go out in bad weather anyway.

But we know that misconceptions can only be changed by providing proper information displayed in a positive light. So we looked at the Philippine government Department of Tourism website (www.tourism.gov.ph) and the Philippine Tourism Authority (www.philtourism.com). I was very positive about Dick Gordon when he took over at tourism. Political intrigues notwithstanding, he has made a reputation as a man that can get things accomplished.

When I looked at the sections on facts about the Philippines, I knew I was in trouble. Did you know that we have a population of 60 million people?

I found out that one must-see destination is Vigan in the north and I agree. Vigan is a beautiful place with very limited accommodations. But getting there may be a little problematic. "The Laoag International Airport services regular flights from Taiwan and Hong Kong. From Manila, Vigan and Laoag can be reached by an 8-hour and 10-hour bus ride, respectively." My, that sounds like a tourist friendly infrastructure. Having taken the bus once to Vigan, I can assure you from personal experience this is not a way to encourage tourism.

Countless lovely destinations are reviewed in the most glowing descriptions. Unfortunately, many are accessible only by boat like Boracay and Puerto Galera and we all know about avoiding Philippine water transportation. The DOT offers no advice or counterclaim to the warning so we will just scratch those two off our list of things to do.

Remembering that Thailand generates 10 percent of its economy from the tourist business, I looked at the arrival numbers for the last 10 years. The picture is terrible. The only significant increase in tourist arrivals comes from returning *balikbayans*. We have had virtually no growth of tourism for a decade. Then you look at average length of stay in the hotels. It is less than three days. These are not even tourists. These are businessmen in for short discussions and meetings. And they aren't taking the bus to Vigan.

As Thailand discovered in the 1980s, tourism is the fastest, most cost-effective way of earning foreign income, while it creates the largest number of jobs per dollar of investment. For the Philippines, tourism is just another opportunity lost.

(John Mangun can be reached at 636-1121 to 35, Fax No. 634-2349 or e-mail at johnmangun@yahoo.com.)

Germans to oversee Naia-3

(From page B2)

Now 53 percent complete, Naia-3 located at Villamor Air Base is Fraport AG's first project in Southeast Asia. The new international passenger terminal will be operational by end of 2002.

It will be the primary international gateway to the Philippines and a magnet for business and investment in the future, Endler said.

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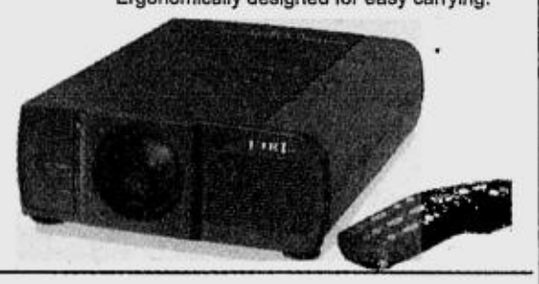
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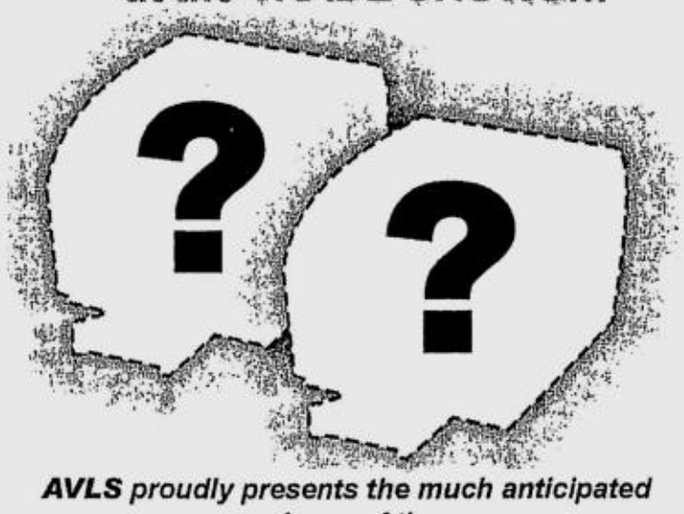
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CLUB	SELLING	BUYING
Alabang A	1,700,000	Pls. Call
Baguio CC	780,000	Pls. Call
Camp John Hay	350,000	-
Canyon Woods	400,000	-
Celebrity Sports	205,000	190,000
The Country Club	7,000,000	-
Eagleridge-A	-	350,000
Eagleridge-B	500,000	-
Eastridge	250,000	-
Filipinas Golf	350,000	300,000
Fontana C	140,000	-
Fontana D	80,000	-
Forest Hills A	240,000	Pls. Call
Malarayat A	330,000	Pls. Call
Malarayat C	-	600,000
Manila Golf	14,700,000	-
Manila Polo	3,300,000	3,000,000
Manila Southwoods A	750,000	Pls. Call
Manila Southwoods B	Best Price!	-
Mimosa A	200,000	-
Mimosa C2	300,000	-
Orchard	300,00	Pls. Call
Riviera	250,000	-
Sherwood	250,000	-
Sta.Elena	1,900,000	-
Subic Golf	310,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay CC	390,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	760,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	Pls. Call	-
Tivoli Royale	220,000	Pls. Call
Valle Verde C	300,000	-
Wack-wack	7,800,000	-

Playing Rights available lessor

Alabang	60,000	Tagaytay CC	40,000
Eagleridge	50,000	Tagaytay Midlands	50,000
Eastridge	Best Buy!	Tagaytay Highlands	50,000
Manila Southwoods	50,000	Wack-wack	90,000

Stocks seen easing on renewed selling

By Doris C. Dumlao

AFTER a technical rally last week, the broader stock market is seen to succumb to renewed profit-taking this week while gathering momentum to test the 1,300 resistance level.

Bargain hunting propped up the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index by 2.52 percent last week to close at 1,297.35 last Friday.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said the market would likely explore some more downside before finally bottoming out.

KGI Securities trader Nina Carpio said that after the selective buying of blue chips last week, there might be more selling pressure this week, with 1,243 as the target downside.

MARKET PLAY

Most likely, however, she said the market would move sideways in thin trading volume similar to the trend during the past few weeks, with the 1,300 as the psychological resistance.

"It's best to stick to defensive stocks like Ayala Corp., Bank of the Philippine Islands, Equitable PCI Bank and International Container Terminal Services Inc.," Carpio said.

"There's no fundamental news to strengthen the market right now," Carpio said.

In the case of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which led the market's rebound last week, Carpio said the continuation of the upward momentum would depend on how the company's shares would fare in the New York Stock Exchange this week.

PLDT shares rose 12.7 percent last week on news that it was pushing through with a $250-million bond float to repay maturing obligations.

Stock market portal 2tradesia.com said part of the market's optimism last week also stemmed from fiscal planners' targeted sale of $250 million worth of bonds overseas to partly solve the budget deficit problem. It said some investors also cheered proposals to accelerate the passage of the anti-money laundering bill in order to meet the Sept. 30 deadline set by Paris-based Financial Action Task Force.

For this week, 2tradesia.com said market heavyweight PLDT might still dominate trading, specially if the underwriters of its bond float are able to garner strong interest in the issuance.

"The longevity of this ascent, however, might put some strain on prices, unless officials convince investors how they could generate recurring cash flow stream to pay off subsequent interest charges," it said.

On the consumer front, 2tradeasia.com said there might still be more exciting stories to unfold in San Miguel Corp. as the conglomerate consolidates its dominance in the beverage category.

"Meanwhile, punters should keep their ears close to the ground for any news that might reinvigorate trading activity in previously active stocks, or those angled with restructuring stories. Trade selectively and move gradually on signs of weakness. The Phisix's immediate support is at 1,270, resistance at 1,330 to 1,350," it said.

BPI Securities analyst Spencer Yap said the market seemed to be firming up the 1,250 support level as foreign-selling on selected issues has abated.

"It may be possible for the market to now test the 1,300 resistance; this, however, will depend on the absence of foreign selling. Most share prices remain low and valuations vis-a-vis growth prospects do warrant some accumulation. We expect bargain hunting to continue as this buying momentum carries forward," Yap said.

Mondragon gets adviser for rehab

HOTELIER and gaming firm Mondragon International Philippines Inc. said it had chosen First Metro Investment Corp to take charge of its financial rehabilitation.

"We have (on Friday) finalized our agreement with First Metro Investment Corp. for their engagement as exclusive financial adviser of the Mondragon Leisure Resorts Corp. and Mondragon International," the company said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Mondragon has previously said its bank debts have grown to nearly P6 billion after the government shut down a casino in its leisure estate in March 1998 for failure to pay taxes and rental dues.

Mondragon owes state-owned gaming firm Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) P82 million and Clark Development Corp. P325 million.

Mondragon also said it was still talking with potential investors, Chair Antonio Gonzales earlier claimed the firm was negotiating with four Las Vegas-based casinos and two Hong Kong-based gaming firms. *Reuters*

GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of September 10, 2001

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,650,000	1,800,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	Please Call	2,000,000
Baguio Country Club	725,000	800,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	100,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	120,000
Camp John Hay	Please Call	400,000
Canlubang	-	750,000
Canyonwoods	-	350,000
Capitol Hills	130,000	140,000
Cebu Country Club	1,930,000	2,000,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	Please Call
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	110,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	230,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	350,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	300,000	350,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	350,000	450,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	15,000,000	16,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	Please Call	14,000,000
Manila Polo	-	3,200,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	700,000	750,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	850,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	110,000	150,000
Mimosa Golf & Country Club (Corporate)	-	350,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	30,000
Mt. Malarayat	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	500,000
Philippine Columbian	-	65,000
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	170,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	250,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Royale Tagaytay "A/B/C"	Please Call	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	200,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,725,000	1,900,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,000,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	400,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	220,000
Tagaytay Country Club	-	420,000
Tagaytay Highlands	850,000	900,000
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000	800,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	180,000	200,000
Valley Golf	250,000	275,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	7,500,000

PLAYING RIGHTS

(Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	40,000	Mimosa Golf	20,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	15,000
Canlubang	70,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	30,000	Sta. Elena	65,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	30,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	65,000
Manila Southwoods	40,000	Tagaytay Mid.	40,000
Makati Sports "A"	35,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

For more information, please call:
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Partial List CLUBS	09/07/2001 ASKED Price	Share Swapping: Please Call CLUBS	BID Price
ALABANG "A"	1,680,000	ALABANG "A"	Call now
CALATAGAN "A"	110,000	CC AT TAGAYTAY	390,000
CANLUBANG GC	855,000	CELEBRITY CLUB	200,000
CAPITOL HILLS	135,000	EAGLERIDGE "C"	400,000
LUISITA GC "A"	535,000	MAKATI SPORTS "A"	Call now
MAKATI SPORTS "A"/"B"	0.43M/0.45M	MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	Call now
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,300,000	MANILA POLO	Call now
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	850,000	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	700,000
ORCHARD "C"	550,000	ORCHARD "A"	Call now
RIVIERA GCC "A"/"B"	0.225M/0.400M	QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	220,000
ROCKWELL CLUB	585,000	STA. ELENA "B"	Call now
STA. ELENA "A"	2,000,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	Call now
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	920,000	VALLE VERDE	170,000
VALLEY GOLF	270,000	WACK WACK GOLF	7,500,000
WACK WACK GOLF	8,000,000		

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	RIVIERA "A"	5,000
EAGLERIDGE "A"	10,000	STA. ELENA "A"	65,000
MANILA GOLF	400,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	35,000
MIMOSA (INDIV)	5,000	WACK WACK	90,000

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SEC Licensed Golf & Club Shares Brokers No. 10573
268 Kalentong St., Mandaluyong City

SELLING:			
Alabang A/B	1.650M/1.8M	Tagaytay Midlands	780,000
Baguio Country Club	725,000	Tagaytay Highland Club/Golf	400,000/568,000
Camp John Hay Golf	315,000	Valle Verde CC	190,000
Canlubang Golf	745,000	Valley Golf	300,000
Canyon Woods	260,000	Wack Wack	7.5M
Capitol Hills	135,000		
Celebrity	205,000	BUYING:	
Eagle Ridge A/C	Please call	Alabang A/B	1.650M/1.8M
Eagle Ridge B	490,000	Baguio Country Club	725,000
Fontana A,B,C,D	Please call	Camp John Hay Golf	300,000
Forest Hills "A"/B/C	240/260/440	Capitol Hills	130,000
Manila Golf (Indv.)/Corp	12.5M/15.970M	Celebrity	200,000
Manila Polo	3,140,000	Forest Hill "A"/B/C	220/250/400
Manila Southwoods "A"/B	750,000/790,000	Manila Golf (Indv.)/Corp.	12.5M/15M
Makati Sports "A"	300,000/350,000	Manila Polo	3.1M
Metropolitan "A"	160/170	Manila Southwoods "A"/B	750,000/790,000
Mimosa	200,000	Makati Sports "A"	300,000/350,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"/B/C	Please call	Metropolitan "A"	160/170
Orchard "A"/B/C	250/350/450	Mt. Malarayat "A"/B/C	Please call
Puerto Azul	150,000	Orchard "A"/B/C	250/350/450
Quezon City Sports	240,000	Philippine Columbian	60,000
Riviera "A"/B/C	200/350/550	Puerto Azul	150,000
Rockwell Club	500,000	Quezon City Sports	235,000
Sta. Elena A/B	1.790M/2.280M	Riviera "A"/B/C	200/350/550
The Country Club	4M	Tagaytay Midlands	780,000
Sherwood	175,000	Tagaytay Highland Club/Golf	400,000/568,000
Subic Yacht (Indv.)/Corp.	/400,000	Valle Verde CC	175,000
		Valley Golf	265,000
		Wack Wack	7.5M

Other shares & playing rights available
Tagaytay Highlands & Midlands share, Lot, Condo, Spa & Lodge = Installment

Connie Ang
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- The area is currently zoned for commercial land use

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AS OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2001

	ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	Please call	-
2. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000.00	-
3. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000.00	-
4. CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	800,000.00	-
5. CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB "A"	Please call	-
6. CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB "B"	-	Please call
7. CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	-	Please call
8. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	-	350,000.00
9. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"	550,000.00	-
10. FOREST HILLS "A"	250,000.00	-
11. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	300,000.00	-
12. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	350,000.00	-
13. MANILA POLO CLUB	3,200,000.00	3,000,000.00
14. MANILA GOLF c COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	13,250,000.00	-
15. MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Corporate)	-	15,000,000.00
16. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	-	750,000.00
17. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	850,000.00	-
18. MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	-	30,000.00
19. MT. MALARAYAT "B"	450,000.00	-
20. ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	500,000.00	-
21. PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	150,000.00	Please call
22. PUNTA FUEGO (INDIVIDUAL)	945,000.00	-
23. PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	65,000.00	60,000.00
24. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	250,000.00	-
25. RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "A"	250,000.00	-
26. SUBIC YACHT CLUB	750,000.00 all in	-
27. SPLENDIDO	600,000.00	-
28. SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	350,000.00	-
29. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INTERNATIONAL GOLF CLUB	800,000.00	-
30. TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB	850,000.00	-
31. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	180,000.00	-
32. VALLEY GOLF CLUB	320,000.00	Please call
33. VERDEMAR GOLF CLUB, INC. (CEBU)	Please call	-
34. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	Please call	-
35. THE COUNTRY CLUB	Please call	-
36. OTHERS	Please call	-

PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE

ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB	Please call	-
CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	Please call	-
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	Please call	-
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB	Please call	-
MANILA SOUTHWOODS	Please call	-
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	Please call	-
TAGAYTAY INTERNATIONAL GOLF CLUB	Please call	-
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	Please call	-
VALLEY GOLF CLUB	Please call	-
WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	Please call	-
OTHERS	Please call	-

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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, Sept. 7, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	59.5	58.5	58.5	363,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29.5	28.5	28.5	61,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	208	209	208	209	104,000
Philippine National Bank	53.5	53.5	53.5	53.5	2,600
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	1	21	21	21	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	200
Union Bank of the Phil.	22	22.5	22	22	7,400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1460	1465	1460	1460	860
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1150	1160	1150	1160	950
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	32	32	32	20,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	310,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	645	645	645	645	500
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	1,800,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	535	555	535	545	118,930
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	9,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	31	31	30.5	31	113,000
Manila Electric Co. B	45.5	45.5	45	45.5	1,375,700
Petron Corp.	1.72	1.76	1.72	1.74	953,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	40,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2	2	1.96	1.98	573,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	54,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	44,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	2,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	583,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.25	13.5	48,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	51,000
RFM Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.16	2.16	237,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41	41	41	41	115,200
San Miguel Corp. B	55	56	55	56	487,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	70,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	5,606,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	342,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.25	700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	190,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	145,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	90,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.54	1.56	1.52	1.52	1,968,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	80,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.17	0.17	870,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	400,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.11	0.105	0.11	600,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	50,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	29.5	30	29.5	29.5	292,600
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	130,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	640,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	10,000
Ipeople Inc. B	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	2,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.7	540,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.31	5,000,000
Music Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.02	1.02	709,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	410,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5	5	5	5	26,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	90,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.28	0.31	50,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.27	1,150,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	140,000
Pryce Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	1,000,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	120,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.75	13	12.5	13	379,500
Steniel Manufacturing	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	40,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	530,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	760,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	32.5	33	32	32	775,700
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref.	11	11	11	11	300
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.24	1.7	1.24	1.7	10,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	10,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	47,400,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.9	9,649,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	420,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.32	0.33	2,650,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	390,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.94	1.96	1.94	1.96	2,631,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	40,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.21	0.21	1,450,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	11,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.055	0.055	0.05	0.05	2,700,000
SM Development Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.8	0.8	80,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	9,108,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.039	0.039	0.037	0.037	6,200,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	320,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co.B	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	60,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	50,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	600,000
Interport Res.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	17,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	37,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	2,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	210,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	553,210	47,639,055.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	242,098,130	259,003,455.00
PRO	29,129,000	111,453,260.00
Mining	6,630,000	313,600.00
OIL	58,840,000	276,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	337,265,340	418,731,470.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	515.81	DOWN 2.70
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,818.51	UP 11.79
PRO	511.95	UP 14.16
Mining	1,177.06	DOWN 6.84
OIL	1.45	UP 0.03
All Shares Index	761.05	UP 3.57
Composite	1,297.35	UP 13.61

NO. OF ADVANCES: 28; NO. OF DECLINES: 30; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 43;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 101; NO. OF TRADES: 1,912

Currencies

Sep. 7, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency In US$	Foreign currency In Peso
United States	Dollar	1.115325	1.000000	51.3110
Japan	Yen	0.009220	0.008267	0.4242
United Kingdom	Pound	1.625139	1.457100	74.7653
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143174	0.128370	6.5868
Switzerland	Franc	0.661482	0.593085	30.4318
Canada	Dollar	0.716007	0.641972	32.9402
Singapore	Dollar	0.637511	0.571592	29.3290
Australia	Dollar	0.582415	0.522193	26.7942
Bahrain	Dinar	2.958578	2.652661	136.1107
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.297420	0.266667	13.6830
Brunei	Dollar	0.635404	0.569703	29.2320
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000125	0.000112	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.025103	0.022507	1.1549
UAE	Dirham	0.303737	0.272331	13.9736
Korea	Won	0.000877	0.000786	0.0403
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.896600	46.0054
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.458424	23.5222
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136686	7.0135
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453791	0.406869	20.8769
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.065158	3.3433
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022226	1.1404
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000463	0.0238
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150797	7.7375
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004472	0.2295
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005389	0.2765
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022226	1.1404
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.138447	58.4149

Gov't presses ouster of Estrada nominees

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE MACAPAGAL administration has intensified efforts to unseat the nominees of ousted President Estrada from the boards of United Coconut Planters Bank and San Miguel Corp. despite offers of a possible compromise with the group of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

In a petition filed with the Supreme Court last Aug. 31, Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo pointed out the urgent need to prevent "fraudulent schemes, which could result in the dissipation of public assets," citing, for instance, Cojuangco's alleged sale of private oil mills to the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) for nearly P1 billion.

When the administration came to power early this year, it was not able to replace the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) nominees in UCPB, which, in turn, acts as trustee for the CIIF (which holds a crucial 47-percent stake in SMC). Cojuangco thus regained a fresh mandate as SMC chair during the annual SMC stockholders' meeting last May.

The 47-percent block was among those assets sequestered by the PCGG during the Aquino administration as part of the crackdown on the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies.

"Indeed, if the high court will enjoin the PCGG from voting the subject shares and if management of the sequestered shares and the related corporations will be left at the hands of the adverse parties who have displayed an obvious penchant to dissipate, similar acts of dissipation are likely to be repeatedly committed against the said shares of stocks and corporation," Marcelo said.

Based on the supplemental agreement entered into by UCPB chair Jeronimo Kilayko on behalf of the CIIF Oil Mills last Feb. 1, Marcelo said Kilayko had agreed to exercise the option to purchase the private mills, namely: Indophil Oil Mills Inc., Southern Islands Oil Mill Corp., PCY Oil Manufacturing Corp., Metroplex Commodities Inc. and Countryside Millers Inc.

The 1999 lease agreement covering these companies allegedly owned by Cojuangco was already questioned by the PCGG earlier, noting that the facilities were unnecessary and the valuation was bloated.

Asked about its side on the issue, UCPB said on Saturday the lease agreement was already terminated last Aug. 1. The bank also denied that the CIIF had exercised the option to purchase the leased mills, refineries and buying stations.

Marcelo's petition had claimed that the oil mills, noted to be about 20 years old, were now operating below their rated capacities.

In a separate interview, PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said that as the Jan. 20 deadline for the nomination of SMC directors drew near, the administration was going full-

GOV'T/ B19

4 foreign firms offer to join BAP cash center

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

FOUR large foreign groups have separately offered to be the strategic partner of the Bankers Association of the Philippines in the latter's cash center project designed to bring down the intermediation costs of commercial banks.

In an interview, BAP executive director Leonilo Coronel said the BAP was evaluating the bids of four groups featuring the world's leading security and technology providers and should come up with a decision soon.

The groups that submitted bids were De La Rue jointly with Currency Systems International Inc., Brinks Inc., Group 4 Securitas and Giesecke & Devrient.

The winning group will help the BAP come up with a feasibility study and plan on how to establish the cash center, which could halve the total intermediation costs and, in turn, lower interest rates charged by banks.

Coronel said that the partnership bids ranged from build-operate-transfer projects to joint ventures to turn key solutions. The cash center would be located in Quezon City beside the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' printing plant. The BAP and the BSP already have an agreement in principle on the establishment of the cash center.

"We've determined that if there is a hub or infrastructure, there's a lot of opportunities to make banks more efficient in handling cash," Coronel said. "What we're doing now is choosing a partner we think will provide the best solution."

De La Rue is the world's leading provider of cash to secure transactions and the largest commercial security printer and paper maker. The company is also a leading provider of cash handling equipment and solutions to banks and retailers as well as a range of identity systems to governments worldwide.

Currency Systems is the first and only technology provider in the world dedicated solely to high-performance currency processing systems and advanced solutions in high-speed and medium-speed (desktop) currency processing applications. CSI services central and commercial banks, currency deposit receivers, armored car companies, bank note printers, casinos, and other establishments that require automated handling of large amounts of currency or other negotiable documents.

Brink's Inc., established in 1859, is the oldest and largest security transportation company in the world with 160 branch operations in the United States, 40 in Canada and affiliates in 50 countries around the globe. Brink's provides the international business community with air courier services, currency services, coin wrapping, ATM services.

Group 4 Securitas is a large Czech stock company owned by a member of the Group 4 Falck, a group of companies that comprise one of the biggest security organizations in the world. Group 4 Securitas provides for the physical security and protection of customer sites and offers transportation of cash and valuables, cash processing services, installation and maintenance of technical security systems, intervention after alarm services, VIP protection and cleaning.

Giesecke & Devrient is a Munich-based technology group involved in banknote paper and printing, electronic data and payment operations, currency automation and services and cash logistics.

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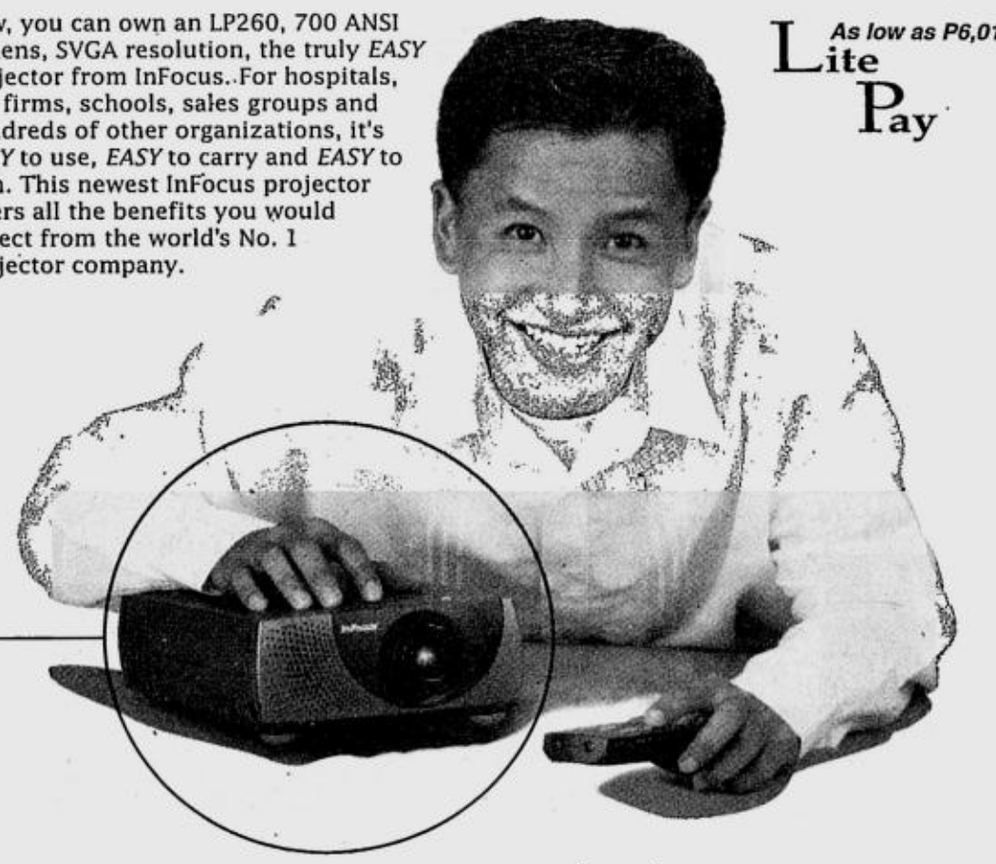

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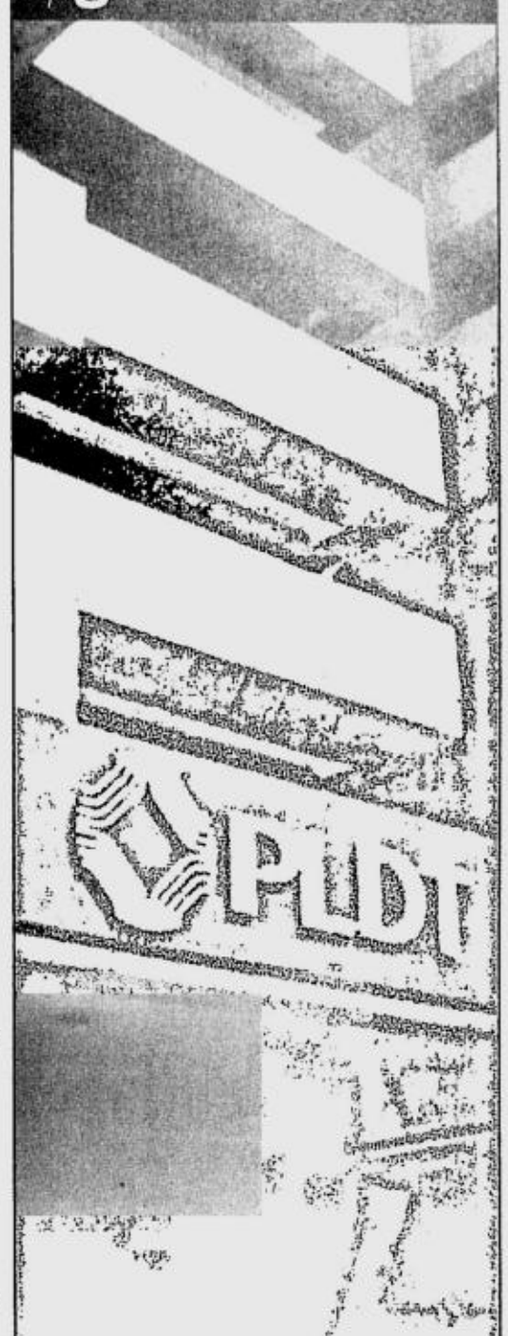

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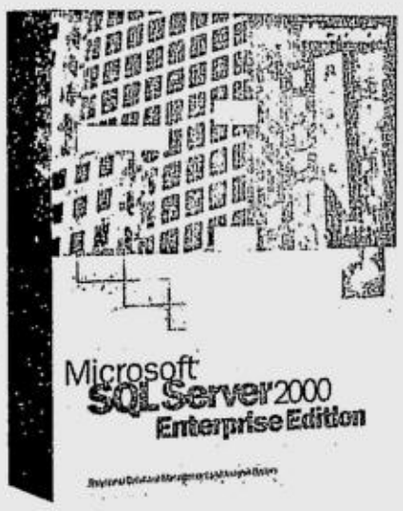

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Secretary Camacho raises income tax

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

WITH all due respect, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho is one smart cookie.

Wielding the vast implementing powers granted him under the Intenal Revenue Code, he has doubled the withholding tax rates starting with income payments that are paid or payable in September 2001 and which are required to be remitted to the Bureau of Internal Revenue within the month of October 2001.

With a stroke of his mighty pen, Secretary Camacho has, in effect, raised income tax rates without the benefit of an act of Congress.

I remember when I started working for a living over half a century ago (before Secretary Camacho was born?), I paid my income tax in full when I filed my return. Then, someone, probably a Finance Secretary, complained of the uneven cash flow.

Government was awash in cash in April and cash-strapped the rest of the year. Thus, the withholding tax was introduced, copied from the U.S. This smoothed government's cash flow.

But the withholding tax has always been modest so that the taxpayer would not wind up being "over-deducted" by year's end. Oh, sure, the taxpayer is then entitled to a refund, but when do you get it? Several years after you filed your return

In the meantime, government holds on to your refund money at no interest. I wonder whether this money owed by government to "over-deducted" taxpayers is counted in the national debt.

If you are an individual taxpayer and you receive the long-awaited letter from BIR that your refund check is ready, you have to travel all the way to some obscure bank branch on the other side of Metro Manila to pick it up.

And when you get there, you get treated as if you were about to hold up the bank. I have always wondered why I never got my refund from the same bank where I paid my income tax.

A corporate taxpayer can apply his overpayment to his tax liability the following year, but there are limits to this entitlement.

Doubling the withholding tax will surely result in bigger over-deductions by end of the tax year. Such excess amounts will end up as a payable of government to taxpayers and will remain payable until government is able to pay, and at no interest.

The actors and entertainers are protesting the loudest because their withholding tax has been doubled to 20 percent.

But the withholding rates of the other taxpayers, including us insurance brokers, have also doubled to 10 percent. In a period of slumping sales and rising costs, the additional 5 percent will be a severe strain on operations.

Of course, doubling the withholding tax eases government's cash flow and may even cut down public borrowing and, as a result, reduce interest rates. But, at the same time, the taxpayer's cash flow is squeezed and the additional withholding tax costs him money in terms of interest earnings lost.

The loss may be small but it cuts into the taxpayer's budget just the same.

It all boils down to this: if you are paying installments on your income tax at the rate of 5 percent a month and then you are told to pay at the rate of 10 percent a month, your tax rate has been effectively raised.

Secretary Camacho has the duty to implement the internal revenue code but the power to increase tax rates lies with Congress.

At least, there should be a *quid pro quo*. Overdue refunds should earn the same rate of interest that delinquent taxpayers are charged. I would like to see a tax cut, no matter how small. Also, may I see some spending cuts please?

* * *

TO all PARP members. The Philippine Association of Retired Persons will hold its annual general meeting September 30 from 8:30 a. m. at the social hall of Villamor Golf Club, Pasay City. Special guest, SSS president Corazon de la Paz. See you there.

NTC directs Globe, Nextel to settle rates issue today

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission gave Globe Telecom Inc. and Nextel Communications Phil. Inc. until today to agree on interconnection rates before issuing mandated rates and forcing them to interconnect.

"We're giving them leeway to make their own decisions. We're hoping not to come in, but the NTC will have to intervene if they don't come into an agreement by next week," NTC chief Eliseo Rio said Friday in a phone interview.

The two telecommunications firms were given up to the end of July to settle commercial issues and interconnect their systems, but the deadline has lapsed with the parties still refusing to accept each other's rates.

Nextel then wrote the NTC to appeal its case. Rio called the two parties to sit down and talk again for the last time on Aug. 24, but still no agreement was reached then.

Instead of imposing "rates that will be equitable but not exactly agreeable for both parties," though, the NTC chief opted to give Globe and Nextel another 10 days to settle their differences.

The 10-day reprieve lapsed on Sept. 3 with both parties still not agreeing on the interconnection rate.

Globe then asked the NTC for another week to further study the matter. The one-week extension ends today.

"We can't accept their (Nextel's) proposal. They're not a CMTS (cellular mobile telephone system) so they can't be treated as one. That's still our argument," Globe assistant vice president for legal Froilan Castelo said in interview last week.

Nextel still insisted that Globe adopt the rates contained in Nextel's interconnection agreement with Smart, but Globe did not agree to this.

In the Nextel-Smart agreement, both parties agreed to pay each other P3 per minute for calls made from Smart cellular phones to Nextel handsets and vice versa.

However, Globe wanted a P6.50-P2 arrangement, with Nextel paying the higher amount.

Globe argued that being a trunk radio operator and not a cellular service provider, Nextel was not entitled to reciprocal compensation like the one existing between Globe and Smart who are both CMTS operators.

However, Nextel earlier said that this was not a fair argument.

"We never claimed to be a CMTS because we're a trunk radio (operator). We just want reciprocity because we're also a mobile service provider even though we're not a CMTS. Our costs are almost the same,"' Nextel legal division officer Rey Fetalvero said.

Rio then explained that interconnection should be system- and technology-neutral.

"It doesn't matter whether you are trunk radio operator or a CMTS. What's more important is that your subscribers should be able to call each other," he said.

The NTC chief said in another interview that the NTC's proposed rates would be technology- and system-neutral as well.

"We'll look at other agreements between a trunk radio operator and a CMTS and take those as precedents. Globe's apprehension is that our mandated rates may affect the previous agreements it has signed with other carriers," Rio said.

He added that the mandated rates will be implemented gradually so as not to drastically change any present setups.

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Gov't eyes more tariff categories

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE MACAPAGAL administration is seriously studying a proposal to expand the number of tariff lines by up to 60 percent to have more elbow room in complying with the country's commitment to the import liberalization program in Asean.

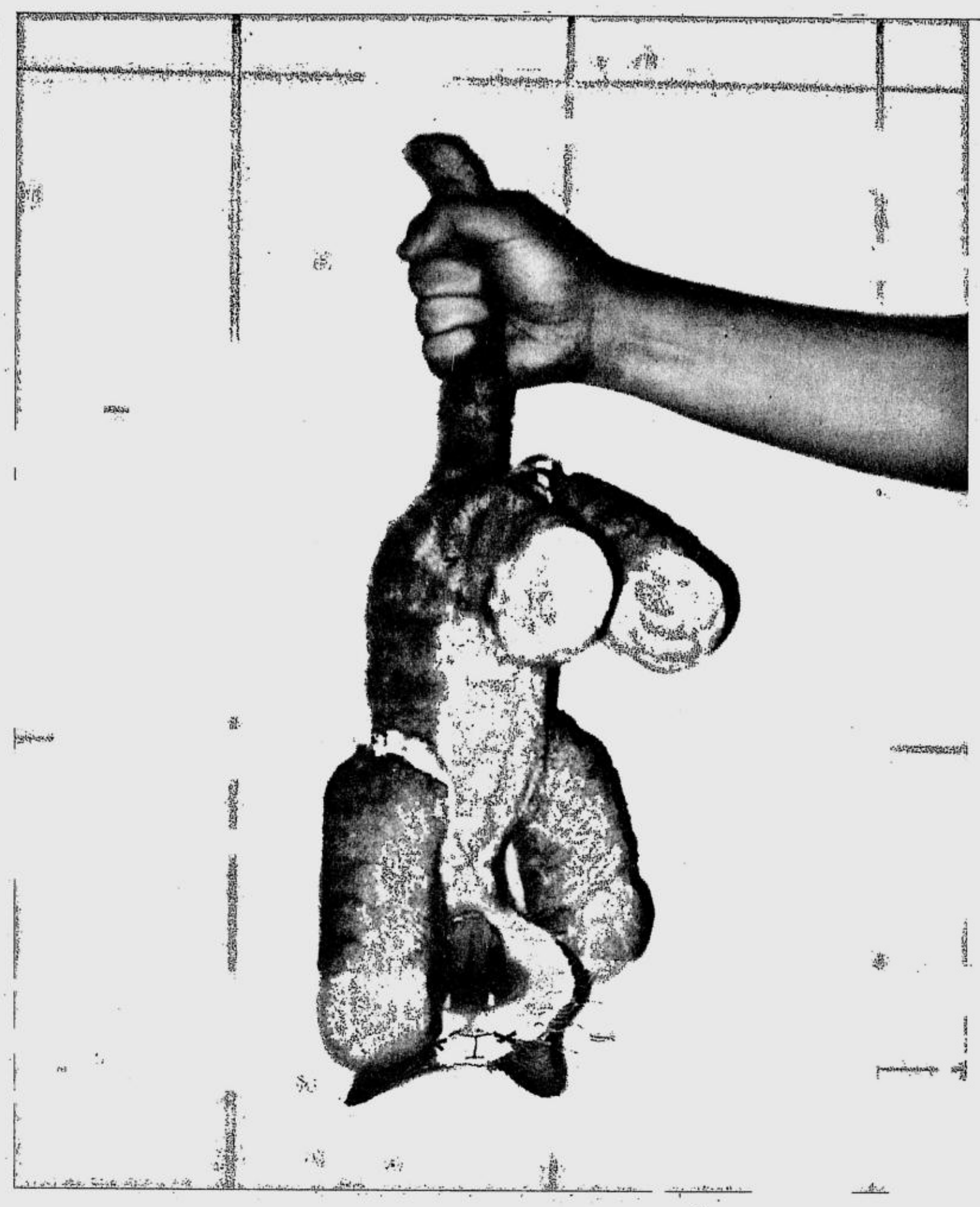
A top Cabinet official revealed that the government was reviewing a proposal on how to increase tariff lines or the product categories used in levying duties from 5,000 to between 6,000 and 8,000 lines.

The Cabinet official said that with more tariff lines, the government would be able to give in to appeals by some industry players to defer the tariff cuts on their goods without compromising the country's regional trade commitments.

The official said that with 8,000 tariff lines, the government could defer duties on at least 800 goods based on a 90-percent compliance rate compared with 500 at the current level of 5,000 tariff lines. The official said the increase in tariff lines was likely to be implemented through the addition of more sub-categories to sensitive product lines.

The Philippines is committed to have 90 percent of all its manufactured goods within the zero- to 5-percent tariff range and 100 percent when the Asean Free Trade Area starts in 2002.

Roxas said the proposed increase in tariff lines would only make the Philippines keep up with other Asean countries that have more tariff lines.



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It's a sad fact that award-winning ads worldwide are beginning to look the same. Distinct brand personalities and differentiating propositions have all but disappeared. Visual punning has become so abused, you can no longer tell who copied whom and what copied what.

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Of course, it's easier to win by cheating. But we can't fool ourselves with empty victories.

It's about time we left the dirty game to politics.

We need to set a good example to the young generation of creatives. If we don't do something, these kids will all be blinded by scam ads. Copycats will continue to breed copycats. And pretty soon, the whole industry will go to the dogs.

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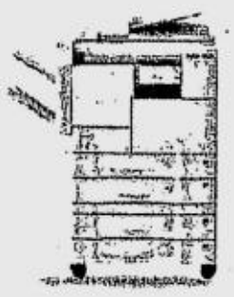

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FILIPINO REPORT CARD

RP gets poor mark in area of public service

BY DENNIS M. ARROYO

(First of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

IT is common in business: Firms seek comments to learn about the needs of their customers. Public services, however, are often monopolies, so they do not feel pressured to listen to the common person.

Times are changing, though. Governments are now using feedback mechanisms to improve their performance. In countries from Canada to Uzbekistan, surveys rate the performance of public agencies.

The World Bank has released findings from a giant mechanism for feedback. It is called the "Filipino Report Card." Through a survey, the poor evaluated the services they were supposed to get. They graded pro-poor services in five key sectors: health care, elementary education, water supply, housing and the distribution of subsidized rice. Agencies got to know if they were flunking, passing or performing with flying colors.

The Report Card is timely, as President Macapagal-Arroyo underscores feedback. Her Cabinet members took a pledge to ensure "regular feedback from our citizen-customers, and subsequent uses of this feedback." Filipinos are no longer beneficiaries but clients.

Feedback of the poor

The World Bank commissioned the Social Weather Stations to run the survey. At the start, the bank held workshops with stakeholders from the government, private sector, academe and civil society. The survey agenda arose from the discussions.

The national SWS poll ran from March 26 to April 17, 2000. It covered the usual sample of 1,200 households.

Depending on their expenditures, families were classified into three main groups. The bottom 30 percent were designated as the poor. The second group was the middle 30 percent, and the top 40 percent were called the rich. However, other studies say that the Filipino poor range from 40 to 66 percent of the population.

Disturbing findings

Much of the findings are distressing. The entire report should be required reading in Malacañang, Congress, the Cabinet and in the various departments.

This series of articles will discuss the survey results and the policies they imply. This piece will highlight the more striking findings from the survey. First, some of the bad news.

- Elementary textbooks were so scarce that five students had to share a single book.
- Around three-fourths of drop-outs came from poor families.
- Tuition paid in private schools were 10 times those charged by public schools.
- Private schools showed a sharp drop in client satisfaction.
- Medicines were more expensive in the Philippines than in the rest of Southeast Asia.
- Medicines and supplies made up 49 percent of family medical expenses, a fraction even greater than the 33 percent for hospital stay bills and the 10 percent for consultation and treatment.
- Less than one percent of the poor were covered by health insurance.
- Mindanao had the least access to cheap subsidized NFA rice.
- Non-poor Filipinos benefited more from the subsidy for NFA rice.

Housing

The poor said they were extremely dissatisfied with their housing. Half of the people rated their housing as inadequate. Another 34 percent regarded their housing as borderline inadequate.

Housing programs reached just a tiny fraction of the people. Only 10 percent have ever applied for or have ever been offered housing assistance. Of this number, a third were forced to do so because of relocation drives.

Too often, public assistance in housing benefited those who needed it least. Around 95 percent of the beneficiaries were urban families, mostly in Metro Manila. The bulk of the assistance was captured by rich and middle-income families.

Among those whose applications were approved, 53 percent rejected the housing assistance offered. The programs disappointed those who accessed them.

Water that was not piped to the household was less safe than piped water, because the former must be stored for long periods. This exposed the water to contamination. But almost two out of five Filipinos did not get water from formal sources. A third or 34 percent had to provide their own water while 3 percent bought water from vendors.

The poor had the highest ratio of the population with no access to home-piped water service: 75 percent. The poor in Metro Manila made up only 11 percent of the clients of Manila Water Co. Inc. and 5 percent of Maynilad Water Services Inc.'s.

Water consumption by the poor was very low.

Half of all poor and rural households got less than 30 liters per person per day, a very meager amount. Among the poor who bought water from vendors, median consumption was just 15 liters, an amount dangerously close to that required for bare survival.

For Filipinos, the water they got was not suitable for drinking without treatment. They spent much on treatment costs.

On the bright side

The survey uncovered some positive findings.

- Government health facilities were low in cost.
- The Health Sector Reform Agenda addresses many of the concerns raised by the survey.
- More than 90 percent of school-aged children were enrolled.
- Access to public schools had improved over time.
- Parent-teacher associations were found in 98 percent of public schools. In fact, three-fourths of poor parents were members. PTAs could be a potent force for reform.
- The poor were capable of building their own houses.
- Geographical targeting would work for distributing cheap subsidized rice. ***(To be continued)***

LONG queues and a semblance of mild chaos have become part of a typical scene in any government agency. In its "Filipino Report Card," the World Bank has come up with "distressing" findings about how the government delivers basic services to the population.

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 13, 2001 (Thursday)

Franchise Asia 2001 Conference

Registration 8:30 - 12:00

Opening Ceremonies
Keynote Speaker:Mr. Tony Tan Caktiong
Chairman and President,Jollibee Foods Corporation

Asia: The Fastest Growing Market in the World
by: Leonard Swartz
Managing Director for Franchising,
Arthur Andersen

Industry Updates: Trends and Innovations
- Philippines by: Samie Lim
- New Zealand by: Robert Fowler
- China by: Pei Liang

Track 1: Industry Update: Trends and Innovations 1:00 - 5:30 pm

- Australia by: Jim McCracken
- Indonesia by: Anang Sukandar
- Malaysia by: Amin Nik Majid
- Japan by: Yasuo Matuoka
- Singapore by: Albert Kong
- Taiwan by: Chung Jen Hsu
- Thailand by: Paradorn
- Canada by: Richard Cunningham

Franchising in Europe
by: Chantal Zimmer, Exec Dir, EFF

Economic Prospects of Asia Pacific Economies in the Medium Term
by: Bernardo Villegas, Dean-School of Economics, UA&P

How to Expand Your Franchise Network
by: Don Boroian Chairman, Francorp International

Simultaneous Sessions

Track 2: Franchise Sales & Marketing Strategies 1:00 - 3:00 pm
by: Don Boroian, Chairman, Francorp International

Track 3: Information Technology New Dimensions in Franchise Retailing 3:30 - 4:30 pm
by: Eymard Alloveros, Consultant, SAP Philippines

Social Franchising/Michael Amies 4:30 - 5:15 pm

SEPTEMBER 14, 2001 (Friday)

Franchise Asia 2001 Conference 9:00 - 12:00 nn

Franchising as a Tool for Economic Development
by: Leonard Swartz, Managing Dir. for Franchising, Arthur Andersen
Vicente Paterno, Chairman and President, Philippine Seven Corporation
Michael Amies, Sibley International

Global Trends & Innovations & the Growth of Franchising in the U.S
by: William LeSante, Vice Chairman for Global Marketing Group

Voices of Experience: From the "Masters" of Franchising
by: William Callagan, Multi-Brand Manager, Tricon, Inc
Bill McGowan, Executive Chairman, Fastway Global Ltd

The Success Story of Jollibee
by: Atty. Claro Certeza, Vice President, Jollibee Foods Corporation

Track 4: Finance 1:00 - 1:45 pm

Acquiring Capital to Build Your Franchise Network
by: David Frantz, Finance Manager, OPIC

Track 5: Legal 1:45 - 5:00 pm

Structuring Franchise and Licensing Agreements
by: Atty. Pericles Casuela
Senior Associate, Quisumbing Torres

Arbitration as an Alternative Solution to Settle Disputes
by: Louise Barrington, ICC

Legal Aspects in Franchising
by: Souichirou Kozuka
Associate Professor, Sophia Univ. Brian Smart
Dir. Gen., British Franchise Assoc.

Track 6: Marketing & Dev't 1:00 - 5:30 pm

Supporting Your Franchisees: Strategies That Build Winning Relationships
by: William Callagan, Tricon, Inc.

How to Succeed in Franchising in Asia
by: Joseph Lau, McDonald's
Lim Wee Kee, VP, Informatics

Re-Engineering Your Franchise Network
by: Ichiro Fujita, President, Idea Link Japan

Revitalizing Your Brand
by: Emily Abrera, Chairman, McCann Erickson

Elements of Successful Franchising
by: Peter Slomlanyj, President, Subway

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NTC says it can't set text rates

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has reiterated its position that it cannot set rates for short-messaging services—more popularly known as "text messaging."

An investigation into reports that mobile phone companies are conniving to keep their steep rates, however, will continue, according to the commission.

NTC chief Eliseo Rio told the INQUIRER that an administrative decision issued by his predecessor, Joseph Santiago and then deputy commissioners Aurelio Umali and Nestor Dacanay was the basis for the commission's current stand on the text-messaging issue.

The decision that classified text messaging as an unregulated value-added service was signed on July 19,1999 by Santiago, Umali and Dacanay.

"The present commission has not done anything to overthrow this decision. SMS is still a deregulated service," Rio stressed.

On Aug. 29, the Philippine League for Democratic Telecommunications Inc. and taxpayers Gerardo Kaimo, Vicente Gambito, Adrian Sison and Ma. Mylene de la Cruz filed a class suit against Globe Telecom Inc. and Smart Communications Inc. to contest a plan by these companies to cut the number of free text messages they were offering to their subscribers.

Acting on this petition, Quezon City Judge Modesto Juanson issued a 20-day restraining order against Globe and Smart.

The two companies were set to implement their free-text cut plan on Sept. 10.

Rod Domingo, the complainants' counsel, earlier accused Rio of misleading the public by saying that text messaging was a deregulated service.

"We strongly disagree with Rio's statements that SMS is deregulated and that the NTC can't do anything about it. It's not a free service but actually part of the package that we are paying for," he said.

Rio stood his ground, saying he was just standing by a ruling made by his predecessor.

Domingo also said the NTC failed to perform its duty of looking after the consumers' welfare.

"The NTC does not want to do anything about our pleas. They didn't call a public hearing to give us an opportunity to air our grievances. The NTC is lukewarm about taking the cudgels for the subscribers so we are constrained to implead the NTC as a defendant in the class suit," he said.

Rio sought to turn the table on Domingo, saying the latter's clients "did not exhaust all administrative remedies" before taking their case to the court.

"(Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon) Alvarez told the NTC to conduct investigations on a possible collusion by the telecom firms. But they (the complainants) went ahead and filed their case even though the NTC was already conducting an investigation," he said.

PROGRAM FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED

STI has become the first commercial computer education center in East Asia to accept visually impaired students in its regular education program with the installation of a screen reader software in its system. The screen reader allows the visually impaired to operate and interface with computers.

BOI reviews 15% tax on cars, light vehicles

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE BOARD of Investments has agreed to review its decision to impose a 15-percent excise tax on all cars and light commercial vehicles due to its potentially damaging impact on sales of Asian utility vehicles (AUV).

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said: "While the matter has initially been discussed at senior staff level, the BOI has deferred a final decision while we closely re-evaluate and give due consideration to the inputs of the automobile industry and individual position of assemblers and parts makers."

Roxas said that AUVs were not only the most useful public utility vehicles and service transports for small and medium enterprises but these also have the highest local content and the biggest export potential.

Official documents showed that BOI managing head Gregorio Domingo had endorsed for approval last month the agency's full backing to the imposition of a uniform 15-percent excise tax which he claimed would prevent price manipulation and tax evasion.

The BOI's decision not to pull the trigger on the flat excise tax rate was due to the strong opposition by AUV assemblers that stand to suffer the most from the policy.

The imposition of uniform excise tax on AUVs, which are currently tax-exempt, would jack up their sticker prices by 15 percent to 50 percent and put them beyond the reach of middle-class buyers.

Although the BOI move would affect all passenger vehicles, the policy was targeted mainly for sport utility vehicles that were able to dodge paying taxes. Assemblers install jump seats in the SUVs to be eligible for the tax waiver granted to vehicles with seating capacity for 10 or more passengers.

This exemption was intended primarily for AUVs to keep prices of these best-selling vehicles affordable to more Filipinos.

But an industry source said that there were other solutions in checking abuse of tax exemption without affecting the price of AUVs. The source claimed that an American vehicle assembler was behind the BOI's excise tax policy because its models could not compete with AUVs that account for roughly a third of total industry sales.

Also, the flat income tax would benefit the American assembler, whose portfolio was loaded with gas guzzlers, since it would pay lower excise taxes at the expense of AUVs. The government currently slaps excise taxes on vehicles based on engine sizes—15 percent for 1600 cc gas and 1800 cc diesel engines; 35 percent for 2-liter gas and 2.3-liter diesel engines; 50 percent for 2.7-liter and 3-liter diesel engines; and 100 percent for engines more than for 2.7-liter and 3-liter diesel engines.

The BOI's support of the uniform excise tax was a reversal of the agency's long standing policy of supporting the development of AUVs as the country's best bet for vehicle exports in the Asean Free Trade Area.

Roxas said: "While the DTI remains committed to supporting the development of AUVs, we also need to look at the status of high-end AUVs which have high retail prices and cater to the higher end market but are still exempted from the excise tax."

AUV assemblers Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (Tamaraw Revo), Mitsubishi Motor Philippines Corp. (Adventure) and Isuzu Philippines Corp. (Hi-Lander) have vigorously opposed plans to impose excise taxes on their units because it would derail the development of these hybrid models.

Assemblers are betting that AUVs are the country's best bet for export to other countries.

Meralco seeks soft loan terms

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

LOPEZ-CONTROLLED Manila Electric Co. is set to ask the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank next year for a waiver on their requirement for the private electric utility firm to maintain a return on rate base of at least 8 percent.

"As soon as our financial performance for 2001 is audited, we will file early next year a request for waiver," Meralco treasurer Rafael Andrada told reporters last week.

The distribution giant owes the two multilateral institutions some $200 million in loans, which were used to upgrade Meralco's distribution facilities and its substations and for expansion projects.

Andrada said that this would be the third time that the Meralco had asked the multilateral lending agencies for a reprieve on its financial requirements.

He said the firm was first granted a waiver in 1999 due to the deterioration of its RORB, a measure of a firm's profitability. With Meralco's RORB expected to slide further to below 4 percent this year, it had no choice but to ask for another waiver.

Without the waiver, Meralco would not be able to access more loans from the multilateral lending agencies, which typically carry a much lower interest rate compared with regular loans from commercial banks and financial institutions.

Andrada said Meralco has no alternative but to cut back on its capital expenditures if the request would be denied

Meralco had been hoping to prop up its RORB with a 30-centavo-per-kilowatthour rate increase. But the petition has been pending with the Energy Regulatory Board (now Commission) since April 2000.

Also last week, Andrada said the Energy Regulatory Commission's move to freeze action on power rate hike petitions would slash its earnings by half and its RORB to below 4 percent.

Andrada added that the firm's earnings would go down by between 40 percent and 50 percent from last year's P2.49 billion because of its inability to raise rates.

Meralco posted P952.995 million in net income from January to June this year, down 47 percent, P1.799 billion for the same period last year.

GOINGS-ON

Micro finance forum

THE BANK Marketing Association of the Philippines, in cooperation with the Bankers Association of the Philippines, Chamber of Thrift Banks and Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines, is hosting a symposium on micro-lending entitled "BMAP Executive Forum on Micro Finance" on Sept. 10, 2001. To be held at the Carlos P. Romulo auditorium, RCBC Tower from 2 to 5 p.m., the forum aims to delve into various micro-lending models by financial institutions, nongovernment organizations, the various government initiatives to support micro-lending activities and the role of micro-financing to poverty alleviation.

Cocolife gets ISO certification

COCOLIFE recently received a third issue of ISO 9002, a certification of quality management systems. An ISO certification is the equivalent of a meritorious award or the highest level of recognition in the industry.

Cocolife, the first and only ISO 9002 certified life insurance company, initially received an ISO 9002 certification on Dec. 10, 1998. This award had also been issued to Cocolife in succeeding years with the third and the latest one issued on Feb. 5, 2001.

What all this means is that Cocolife has been vigilant in maintaining its standards of quality and excellence. Over the years, Cocolife has established performance standards and a foundation for continuous improvement. It also means that it has streamlined its procedures and is constantly attuned to the needs of its customers.

Retail hub to start operations

FORT Bonifacio Development Corp. (FBDC) announced that Bonifacio StopOver located in the western portion of the Bonifacio Global City within the 25-hectare Peza-accredited e-Square IT Park is scheduled to commence operations within this month.

Bonifacio Stopover, a 4,000-square-meter block, includes a full-service Shell gas station, a stand-alone Jollibee outlet and a two-story retail complex that also houses Starbucks, Zen Day Spa, Hen Lin, Japs, Kameraworld, and Ralph's Liquor store.

Microsoft, Infoserve sponsor show

MICROSOFT Philippines and Infoserve International Inc. have joined forces to present 21st Century Banking Solutions, a banking show that will feature integrated, next-generation, state-of-the-art banking solutions running on the Microsoft Windows 2000 platform.

This event will be held on Sept. 26, 2001 at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila Hotel, Makati City. It will feature track sessions with various topics covering bank operations.

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8	Daihatsu	YRV	36
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10	Nissan	Bluebird Sylphy	11

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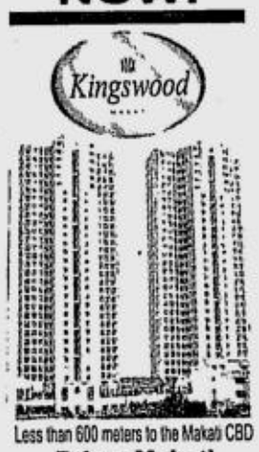

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New Mla QC L-3082m² 928-1469 Direct Buyer

NR ATENEO 3.5M 681-9868

Rolling Hill New Mla L-258 2Stry 4BR 2Car 928-1469

RUSH GOODWILL HOMES 1 3BR & 2TB 246m² 4M(neg) Call Luz 9353921

Sct. Area 2-Stry w/ Attic 3BR/TB A1 Qlty. 9230087

T. Sora / Commonwealth LA367m² (2Storey) FA286m² 0919-8050474 • 853-6169 DBO

RIZAL

346m² N. Silanan 634-1212

Bful 3BR hse&lot w/fence carport lawn nr clubhse in San Mateo P980T 9414854

GREENWOOD EXEC. VILLAGE Cainta, Rizal 2 Storey Duplex 3BDRM, 2TB w/Tel. 1 C'port each unit Call 6428597/6317237

HOUSE & LOT

RIZAL

nr SnMateo 3T/mo 9978394

SAN JUAN

Greenhills Backing Golf Course 725-4547 • 0917-4445737

PROVINCIAL

Tagaytay L-249m² 2Stry 3BR 3TB 1CG 928-1469

Tagaytay L-286m² 2Stry 3BR 3TB 1CG 928-1469

OTHER AREAS

LAGUNA BEL AIR3
American House Concept
Only Re: 36 PDC & 15% D.P.
Renz 410-6916 • 0917-8174842

RUSH!CanyonWoods Btngas 6.5M 0917-8143792

VARIOUS AREAS

NO DOWNPAYMENT!!! RENT TO OWN DEAL!!! GHILLS/MAND/PASIG 2-3BR@P16-23T/mo. 0917-4633590/1277-50788

Rent / Sale Suzuaregui, Cmwith Ave. QC & Pasig G'Prk, Ph8, Cainta 373-4559/373-3469 ofc hrs

LOT

MARIKINA

MASUNAG, nr Sta. Lucia, 2,500/sq 120 SQ, 5 YRS-PAY, 242-1521

MUNTINLUPA

PLEASANT VILL w/direct access rd to FILINVEST Alabang 477m² P5,500/m² Vic Gigie 8903461 loc. 27

PARANAQUE

Aero Park 275LA 8071240

San Antonio Vlg (Parnque 276sqm 7000/sqm (Neg.) 746-3217 Look Rex Garcia

PASIG

COMM'L LOT ALONG ORTIGAS CAINTA 548 SQM 725-0495

QUEZON CITY

456 Sqm. COMMERCIAL BANKERS VILL. I GATE I along Quirino Ave., Novaliches, Clean Title 0919-4491284

Capitol Park Homes nr SM Fairview 9612353

L-406m² Short Horn Proj 8 Comm'l LOT 928-1469

Marcos Hiway Comm'l LOT L-317 V-LOT 928-1469

Rollin Hills V-LOT L-725 Coner LOT 928-1469

PROVINCIAL

Cavite Light Industrial Park 2yrs To pay w/o Interest Along Maguyam Road Carmona,Cavite Tel # 635-8108 - ELOISA

Dasmarinas Cavite L-2774 Gd 4 Whse 928-1469

Malinta Bulacan L-7049m² V-LOT Alg H-way 928-1469

Open House Canyon Woods Invited Tagaytay 928-1469

San Jose Vill Sta Rosa Laguna L-151 or 174 928-1469

TAAL Btngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA679m² P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

Tanza Cavite LOT 5Hec Comm'l Lot 928-1469

FARM LOTS
ORANI, BATAAN
500 TO 1,000 SQ.M. CUTS INSIDE FRUIT FARMERS VILLAGE WITH FRUIT BEARING TREES, 9 FEET TALL PERIMETER SECURITY FENCE, CLUBHOUSE, TENNIS COURT BASKETBALL COURT AND SWIMMING POOL & JACUZZI.
CALL: LEXBER Realty Mgt. & Mktg.
3723206
3719702 TO 04
4108367 TO 69

OTHER AREAS

LOAKAN AREA 14,000m² 2,500/m² NEG. CAN SELL min. 3,000m² 9297052/54

NEAR GREEN VALLEY AREA 1,250m² 3,000/m² NEG. 9297052/54

Sta. Ma. Ind. B-Bayan Taguig LA 3000 T-8071240

TOWN&COUNTRY Southville 209m² P800T Vic 8903461L.27

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

LAS PINAS

BFR 1.7M 3BR2TB 8428853

MAKATI

C5 Nr The Fort 988T
2BR 9T/mo or 3 Yrs No Int.
RFO 0917-8169849 1481-769894

CONDO Unit
Ready For Occupancy Near C5 D Fort Makati 2/3 BR P10T/mo Jimmy 881-3863 • 0917-4893944

MANILA

Apt nr UST P9.3M 9126833

DYNASTY TOWERS
1&2 Bedrooms
For Lease or Sale
Ready for Move-in
Tel. # 252-2030-Linda

MANDALUYONG

Madison Suites 2BR 3.9M 1BR 2.6M 412-1825

Pioneer Madison Suites 1BR 2.6M 2BR 4M Call 412-1825

RUSH SALE! Owner going abroad 2Bdrm Condo Unit Madison Suites Pioneer Highlands, Perla 631-7451

PASIG

Crisanta Tower 634-1212

Ortigas Ctr Ofc Sale or Rent 412-1825 • 0917-7914366

RUSH! Renaissance 2000 DBO 2br+2tb 09178143792

QUEZON CITY

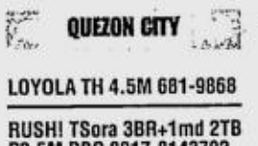
LOYOLA TH 4.5M 681-9868

RUSH! TSora 3BR+1md 2TB P2.5M DBO 0917-8143792

Sale T-House QC 725-0041

PROVINCIAL

BAGUIO TOWNHOMES
REGAL LEXBER HOMES
METRO BAGUIO
P870T to P1.5M



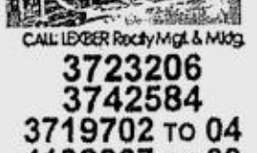
CALL: LEXBER Realty Mgt. & Mktg.
3723206
3742584
3719702 TO 04
4108367 TO 69
WEBSITE:
www.lexber.com
EMAIL:
alexis@lexber.com

OTHER AREAS

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
near SM Bacoor
Initial DP: P 15,000

WESTVILLE HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000



FORTE REALTY
2/F Princess Bldg, Esteban St, Legaspi Village, Makati City
815-2144 810-7183
810-7297 810-8019
871-8318 829-5081
872-7603
Welcome Brokers & Agents write to
forterealty@skyinet.net

SAN JUAN

Platinum 1 FA-176 634-1212

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

VARIOUS AREAS

MAKATI CONDOS
ROCKWELL
LEASE: 2BR 3BR Bare, SF, FF, 80K to 175K /mo. SALE: 1BR, 2BR, 3BR P16M, P13M,P21M Lits 800-4748 • 0917-3752258

RENT TO OWN DEAL/NO DPI GHILLS/MAND/PASIG 2-3BR @ 16T-23T/mo. Call:09175229214/5320625

MEMORIAL LOT

MMP PQ Rush Em'rld Acres 380-C@49T Pr 8386652/45

Magnificat F. Boni 634-1212

The Heritage Park
Fort Bonifacio
NOW OPEN... Selling Lawns, Gardens, and Estate Lots
Buy direct from the office: The Heritage Park, Corporate Bldg., Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, M.M.
Tel. No. 845-2341 / 845-2342 / 845-2651

FACTORY/WHSE

4000m² Beside SM City Along Edsa 928-1469

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

3665197BRIONES 7AVE 2.8 S/T

MANILA

2Dr Apt 4Sale, 112sqm Gagalangin, Tondo, P5M (Nego.) Call Aling Ning 244-9077 (10AM-5PM) 253-8798 (7PM)

PASIG

2BR 6331040 TETA

Apt. 4 Rent Up n Down Accsbl 2 Grnhils, Cubao, Mkti nr. Schols, Hosptls, Mall Pls. Col 655-5498/6772

UP/DN APT NR ORTIGAS CTYSIDE PASIG 725-0495

QUEZON CITY

Up & down 19 Cabezas St. Proj 4 QC Tel. 4386188

HOUSE

ALABANG

AYALA ALAB 3BR Den Mds Driv rms Pool Acu Liv & Dir furn Ref Range 95T 428 San Bartime 801-5580 801-5584 0918-9160659

MAKATI

1-2BR 2-car grge + bodega WRembo No Flood 8957838

PASIG

Dona Juana Subd. Pasig P4.1M 3BR • 915-5177

QUEZON CITY

10 Ceciliville W-Plains 5BR 5TB 4CG S-Pool 633-0164

SCT AREA 5BR 35T NEG NEW NR TIMOG 2588019

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

KWOOD Mkti 3BR3TB maid qr 20T prkg 2.5T 8996632 Irene

Liroville Cond Alfaro St. Mkt Infront Mkt Sports Club Call 8132840-43

STUDIO FF Makati 17K
•759-4091•752-2580•
•848-7388•0917-8381928•

MANDALUYONG

Nr. Edsa Cross Polymedic Hosp. w/Tel Garage 747-0101

SHAW TOWER studio 6336002 Pioneer Highland w/ Parking

PASIG

3BR Renaissance 2000 Fully Furn 5Min From Megamall ADB 0917-8394462

Ortigas Center 2BR 20T 3BR 25T 412-1825 • 0917-7914360

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

ASTORIA PLAZA ORTIGAS 1&2 Bedrooms For Lease or Sale Ready for Move-in Tel # 631-39-29 Ramil

Penthouse
New 360m² Semi-Furn. 8101 Pearl Plaza, Ortigas 633-5094 • 637-8101 • 637-8080 10:30-7pm Mon-Sunday

Townhouse 4BR 2TB 1H²o Tank 2Garage Rosario Pasig P15T /mo. DR. Lao 0917-8422134 • 655-0691 • 726-0305

QUEZON CITY

54sqm 3BR nr UDMC 1.3M /9T 7127366/09179831347

Burgundy Loyola Katip. Pkng 2BR 25T 915-5177 / 0917-5325440

Burgundy Loyola Katip. Pkg 2BR P25T • 915-5177

Prince David Loyola 1BR P2.5M • 915-5177

SAN JUAN

Ghills 1BR P17T; 2-3BR P25-35T 723-2391; 0917-3848111

OTHER AREAS

Paragon Plaza EDSA 2BR P33T FF • 915-5177

FOR LEASE

VLot Edsa Manda LA245m² 915-5177 • 0917-5325440

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Gigie/All 8903461 loc. 25/23

BUSINESS RENTAL

3 Storey Townhouse for Office or House Used located at Teacher's Village QC along Matahimik St., for more Info Pls. Call No. 726-6044 • 434-6092

Edsa Manda LA 2450m² 915-5177 / 0917-5325440

KamiasRd 9250182M-F PM

Medical Plaza Ortigas 40sqm Sale /Rent 412-1825 • 0917-7914366

Jollibee Plaza ofc units 80-150m² 412-1825

Centerpoint - Ortigas Ctr 170m² Sale/Rent 4121825

Office Bldg & Warehouse Flr Areas From 265m² Up Approx 800 Mtrs Form Ninoy Aquino Intl Airport • 853-6159 /0919-8050474 DBO

Prestige Ofc 60 90 150 to Whole Flr(s) Call 412-1825

PRIME OFFICE AVENIDA NR. RAON CONCR. BLDG., T7356516

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

628CSI Blk 17Mags 373-2753

CARS

HYUNDAI

98Grnd Saloon265T 9257622

KIA

★ P235T up★
Grace, Besta, Pregio
good running condition loaded
732-9805 742-3374

MITSUBISHI

96 L200 w/Bedcover 63000KM P270T 8439359/ 09174194265/09173504744

'96 Lancer GLXi Automatic 15 Mags Call 934-2294

LANCER '98 180T/ 8390654

NISSAN

2000 Nissan Terrano Series II 950T Call Emy 713-1859

VAN/PICK-UP

DEL VAN L300 1991 100T Call GLO BISMAC 8823355

BUSES/TRUCKS

Japan:Recon*As-Is CBU A1 All Types Cash/ Financing 4-10Whir 9126976 4381480

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

3days Genset&farm trctors sale 100 20 50 10KVA Kubota Iseki from 9/10-12 3672002/3610215 Kal Cty

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Sunflower Transport
Starex L300 MB100 Coaster Bus Cars 631-3496 • 637-7396

BrdalMB/Vans9296250;4535288

Van Coaster Bus 913-91-23

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

MB100/Hi-Ace Call 641-1859

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

SELF-DRIVE
New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS
ABC 5368822/3039789

STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

U Drive Cars Vans 8006595

UDrive w/drivr Cars/L300/ MB/4x4/Bus 8908667-69

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1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

wistron
Wistron Info-Comm (Philippines) Corporation
#8 Road 3 cor. 4th Ave. Ash High Avenue,
Subic Bay Industrial Park, Phase I
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2200
Telephone (63) 47 2527760
Facsimile (63) 47-2526223

••• OUR COMPANY IS IN NEED OF HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATES WHO CAN FILL UP THIS POSITION •••

FINANCE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Qualifications:
- Male • Less than 33 years old • Must be a graduate of a well known university • Must have 5 years related working experience in computer manufacturing • Well verse in all phases of accounting aspect • Able to prepare consolidation report

Requirements:
- Updated resumé with recent photo • Diploma / Transcript of Records • Employment Certificate

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR RESUMÉ TO:
MR. ROMMEL AQUINO
Division Chief, Recruitment Division
SBMA-Labor Center
Rm. 138, Building 255, Barrymen Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone 2222

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

HOME APPLIANCE

MGC CHF Range GE FRZR Whrlpl Wshng Mchn 725-0041

National Split Type yr 2000 good as bnew P22T 3ton Carrier Condura 99 P35T cieling mounted Packg 5ton P55 7.5tons P60T 9219465 4262970 4554061

PETS

Cocker Spaniel 373-0557

MALE ROTT PUPS SHOWQTY 3633933 09178199948

POMERANIAN F 5mos. 631-7777

UPPERMOST DOG SCHOOL HOME & BOARDING OFFR 4528681

SPORTING GOODS

BILLIARD Table & Supplies SM Fairview 3/F Storyland 0919-6108798

B.Table B'new w/accessories •8014494/8020566•

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T complete acc's •8618714/16 •8613123 •8613125•

New Billiard P18.5T P22T P25T Ok C.Card 781-9453

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Bowling & Billiards
Sales & Rentals T-9341569

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH
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WE BUY **ROLEX**
5633742 5646593 09174383744

WE BUY GOLD
HIGHEST PRICE
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8390004

MISCELLANEOUS

Hearing Aid 3.8T 7800807

ID strap LogoPin 656-8605

Phone Monitor 7800807

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

FAMILY DRIVER
15yrs min. Driving Exp. Non-smoker Apply 3-5pm 25 Hillside Dr. Blue Ridge "A" QC

• WANTED ASAP •
Professional Company Driver Tel#:8234573-74

FEMALE

Maids w/NBI 2T534-9074/75

Manicurist/Junior T#410-6997

NURSE Receptionist w/ pleasing personality for Skin Clinic 6388427

MALE/FEMALE

Accounting Clerk 727-8476
Asst. Manager 727-8476

Adm Staff 9134470 Adonis

CARE GIVER T5280722

Clerk Sec. 7136116 Ruth

OFC STAFF 8814843 Camil

Ofc Staff 9134470 Helen

Property Exec.
Must B Fr Makati Taguig Pasig Pateros or Pasay Call Mervin 0917-3568729

QC/Sales Coordinators
Male 5'8" /Female 5'5" willing to be trained Coll. Lev./ Bring bio-data 2 Photos Tel 534-5926/27

STAFF NURSE
Apply Immediately at: Sto. Nino de San Antonio Hospital Tel 6454463

•Urgent! 18 Ofc Personnel 18-45yo w/or w/o exp Direct Start ASAP! 9134470 HAZEL

Wanted M/F Part/Full Time P12-25T • 0919-6411676

WTD: Yaya/H.Maids/EngChi Tcher, Fam. Cook 6604589

Urgent Ofc Staff- exp. not reqd Lk4 Ms IVY 749-2993

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Can Own Diamond & Earn $ 0917-6098308 • 0917-8101848

Computer Shop 4Sale
Good Loc. cor. Ubelt 21PC Sure Profit • 0917-4250464

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ERSAO Food/drinks T#364-9683

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ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
P.O. Box 789 Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. 632-4231; Fax no. (632) 636-2567
Email: adjusupbekova@adb.org or dmunoz@adb.org

INVITATION to PREQUALIFY for the SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS LINKS FOR RESIDENT MISSIONS

1. The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for prequalification in the bidding of ADB's Satellite Communications Links For Resident Missions. The ADB Headquarters in Manila requires the use of satellite communications links to facilitate its voice, data and videoconferencing traffic to its Resident Missions. The following Resident Missions have been identified for satellite communications links: India, Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, East Timor, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The contract award will be for any two (2) countries out of the nine identified Resident Mission sites.
2. The service must be secured, can easily be deployed and installed, has unattended operations capability and utilizes state-of-the-art satellite communications technology.
3. Applications for prequalification will only be entertained from companies meeting the following minimum requirements:
   - Have a legal existence for no less than 10 years as a validly registered company;
   - Have an extensive experience in the field of international telecommunications networks and services for no less than 7 years with at least 3 satellite communications projects/contracts of international nature;
   - Have a generated annual revenue derived from telecommunications services of at least P15,000,000 for the past 3 years;
   - Must be a partner of at least one of the global satellite network operators;
   - Have the presence of at least one certified satellite technical engineer stationed in Manila or in any Asian country where its satellite network operations center (NOC) is located.
4. Prequalification documents may be obtained from the Head, Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 4223 North, at the above address, from 12 to 20 September 2001 on any working day (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.), upon presentation of the receipt of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) at the ADB's Cash Room, Room G239W.
5. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of the ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation for prequalification shall be borne solely by the applicant. The ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for prequalification and to reply only to the companies, which are considered by the ADB to be prequalified.

(Sgd.) NORMIN S. PAKPAHAN
Chairman
Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

(PDI – Sept. 10 & 11, 2001)

sbma **BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**
SBMA Building 255, Barryman Street, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
Tel. Nos. (047) 252-4214/4124/4424/4230/4424 • Fax No. (047)252-4284

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the project described below are invited to apply for Application for Eligibility and to Bid with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport, Olongapo City. Only eligible contractors will be invited to participate in the forthcoming bidding.

A. Name and Location of Project : **CONSTRUCTION OF ENTRANCE CANOPY @ BUILDING 8015, SBIA, Subic Bay Freeport Zone (SBFZ)**

B. Project Description/Scope of Works:

Proposed Main Entrance Canopy at Departure drop-off area, eastern most side of Subic Bay International Airport, Building 8015 covering an area approximately 1,065.18 sq.m. The proposed project shall include supply of all supervision, labor, materials and equipment, required for the construction of entrance canopy of Subic Bay International Airport, consisting of removal of existing walkaway skylights, structural support system, erection of concrete in place, structural, architectural and electrical works and other miscellaneous and incidental works.

C. Approved Budget Cost: **Php = 10 MILLION**

D. Required PCAB Registration and Classification/License:

PCAB Principal Qualification and Category
General Building "B"

Kinds of Project and Respective Ranges
Building and Industrial Plant "MA"

E. Cost of forms for Application for Eligibility and to Bid, dates and place of issuance: Php 200.00 (non-refundable);

Issuance date: September 17 and 18, 2001 only, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Engineering Department, PWTSG, SBMA
Room 223 Building 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ

F. Deadline for submission of Accomplished Application for Eligibility to Bid: October 01, 2001, 5:00 p.m.

Address to:

ATTY. CHITO M. CRUZ
BAC Chairman/Sr. D.A. for Support Services
c/o Engineering Department
Room 222, Building 255 Barryman Road
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

G. Time and date of submission and opening of Bids, Pre-Bid Conference and Site Inspection shall be confirmed in the Notice of Eligibles.

Application for Eligibility and to Bid is open to all contractors with valid PCAB (Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board) Contractors License and Registration. Prospective bidders are required to submit a Letter of Intent and Certified True Copy of the Contractors License upon purchase of the forms for Application for Eligibility and to Bid and shall bring the original copy of the Contractors PCAB License Classification Registration for verification and authentication purposes.

Bid Documents shall be issued only to the eligible contractors duly notified by SBMA in writing upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.

All participants relative to the eligible process, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the latest provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations as Amended.

The SBMA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **CHITO M. CRUZ**
BAC Chairman/Sr. D.A. for Support Services

(PDI – Aug. 28, Sept. 3 & 10, 2001)

sbma **SBMA DISPOSAL COMMITTEE**
SBMA Bldg., 255, Barryman St., Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
TEL. NOS. 6347 252-4214/4124 FAX NO. 6347 252-4284

INVITATION TO BID
FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED DISPOSABLE/ SURPLUS AND OTHER SCRAP MATERIALS "AS IS, WHERE IS"

I.	ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	SCHEDULE OF BIDDING
Lot 1)	Abandoned finished products & other properties by Korea Subic-Manufacturer of fishing rods at NavMag, SBMA	September 27, 2001, 2:00 PM
Lot 2)	2 x Unserviceable generator trains, transformer & other scrap materials located at Bldg. 8325 yard	September 27, 2001, 2:30 PM
Lot 3)	14 x Condemned buildings at Airport vicinity for demolition & clearing	September 27, 2001, 3:00 PM
Lot 4)	Unserviceable furniture & other scrap materials stockpiled in 10 IGLOOS at NavMag Group 2	September 27, 2001, 3:30 PM

II. Buyers are requested to submit the following Pre-qualification documents at the Procurement and Property Management Department (PPMD), Room 201, 2nd Floor, Bldg. 255, SBMA, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

1. Certificate of Accreditation as Scrap Hauler from Trade & Tourism Group or PPMD, SBMA.
2. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR 2000) of the bidder or copies of Audited Financial Statement of the Company and Certification of Cash Deposit by a reputable bank.

III. Deadline for submission of the Pre-Qualification Papers is on **September 13, 2001, Thursday (5:00 p.m.)**. No extension.

IV. Pre-Bid Conference and Issuance of Bid Forms (P100.00 per set) will be on **September 20, 2001, Thursday (3:00 p.m.).**

V. Bid Bond is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to ten (10%) percent of the total bid price in favor of SBMA.

VI. Inspection will strictly be by Group on the following schedules:

Lot 1) September 14, 2001 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Lot 2) September 17, 2001 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Lot 3) September 18, 2001 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Lot 4) September 19, 2001 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

VII. For other information, inquiries and/or request for inspection, call Tel. No. (047) 252-4214/4483 (c/o Danny Sanchez).

VIII. SBMA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein or to reject/accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to SBMA.

Done this 7th day of September 2001.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO A. INOCENTES**
DA for Administration
Vice-Chairman-Disposal Committee

(PDI – Sept. 8, 9 & 10, 2001)

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR PURCHASING POWER
Join in the Economic Revolution Towards Filipino Consumers Empowerment

In our desire to cope with the expanding necessities and threats confronting the business industry amidst prevailing political and economic challenges,

RISE
E-COMMERCE SYSTEMS, INC.
The Consumers and e-Commerce Arm of the RISE Group of Companies

has set sights on empowering the consumers through a profitable market exchange system and foregrounding the ideals and tenets of the Company in our pursuit to provide an alternative means to liberate the Filipino Consumers from the shackles of poverty.

With the rewarding and overwhelming feedback from the consumers, our Company has thus decided to finally LAUNCH and open out our SYSTEMS to every concerned Filipino Consumer—endowing them with the knowledge of sound consumerism—to ascertain that the entire operation are carried out. Our launching on

Date: 29 September 2001 (Saturday)
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Venue: Rockwell Tent, Rockwell Drive, Makati City

marks the inception of our more dedicated and enthusiastic partnership with the consumers as we move towards broader perspective.

For Systems inquiries and/or orientation, visit or call our Business Center Operation (BCO) near you.
(We will further set up BCOs in other areas soon...)

METRO MANILA BUSINESS CENTERS

- ***RISE – Global City Taguig***
  Ms. Regina C. Velasco
  355 B-8 GHQ Zone 1-C Signal, Taguig, Metro Manila Tel. # (02) 838-7883
  CP # 0919-4339797 / 0919-8990289
- ***RISE Project 8, Quezon City***
  106-B Rd. 20, Project 8, Quezon City
  Tel. # (02) 425-1443/454-0600/454-0619
  Fax #(02) 927-2314 CP# 0917-8118079
  Email: *rrreds@pacific.net.ph*
  Orientation: *9 AM – 6 PM (Tues. – Sat.)*
- ***RISE Roosevelt, Quezon City***
  Ms. Meryle Taaca
  Unit 7, 3rd Flr., 316 Roosevelt Ave., SFDM, Quezon City
  Tel # (02) 330-9259
  CP # 0917-5401634
- ***RISE – VALENZUELA CITY***
  Ms. Mildred D. Datuin *(contact person)*
  Unit #1 Keppelson Bldg., #51 Mc Arthur Hi-way, Marulas, Valenzuela City
  Tel. # (02) 277-2163 to 64
- ***RISE Commonwealth Group***
  Ms. Ofelia J. Ballesta
  628 Grapes St., Commonwealth Ave., Q.C. Tel. # (02) 932-2490/428-0840
- ***RISE – Parañaque City***
  Ms. Marilou Espiritu
  84C Doña Soledad Ave., Better Living, Parañaque City Tel. # (02) / 821-1188 /821-4764 / Telefax # (02) 821-1155
  CP # 0919-4482698
  Orientation Schedule: Sept. 14 & 15, 2001 (Fri. & Sat.) @ 4 PM – 6 PM
  E-mail: *lhouespiritu@yahoo.com*
- ***RISE E-CUBAO***
  Ms. Nila D. Cañezal
  Rm 403 Diamond Bldg., 603 EDSA Cubao, Quezon City Tel. #(02)418-2729 / 721-3386 CP # 0917-4948023
- ***RISE – PACO***
  Mr. Allan T. Resterio
  1155 JL Escoda St., Paco Market, Paco, Manila
  Tel. # (02) 562-0645 / 524-9549
  CP # 0919-8012633 / 0917-4987682
- ***RISE CYBIZ-QUEZON CITY***
  Ms. Le Guzman
  #18 Antonio Luna, Proj. 4, Q.C.
  Tel. # (02) 9138564
  CP # 0917-3871028/ 0919-832-8771
  Email: *go4gold@edsamail.com.ph*
- ***RISE E-Novaliches***
  Ms. Emma C. Daniel
  #223-E General Luis cor. Gold Sts., Novaliches, Q.C.
  Tel. # (02) 935-8381 / 983-0346
  CP # 0919-8723689
- ***RISE E-Commerce Marikina***
  Ms. Erlinda C. Sernadilla
  Rm 302 #51 Bayanbayan Ave., Marikina Heights, Marikina City
  Tel. # (02) 934-7764
  CP # 0919-3949151
- ***RISE CHIT-PANDACAN***
  Ms. Necita D. Salivio
  1944 A. Sampaguita St., Pandacan, Manila Tel. # (02) 561-6605
- ***RISE CYBER CENTRAL***
  Dillman, Quezon City
  Tel. # (02) 931-8003
  CP # 0917-8374464

LUZON BUSINESS CENTERS

- ***RISE Excel-Pangasinan***
  Mr. Manuel G. Valdez
  Nancayasan, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan / Tel. # (075) 568-5116
  CP # 0917-4473280
- ***RISE – DAGUPAN***
  (Schedule of Trainings: Tues. & Thurs. @ 2 PM and Sat. @ 9:30 AM & 2 PM)
  Ms. Tonith Bornolia
  Tel. # (075) 523-4264/CP# 0917-7420556
  Ms. Imelda Sarmiento (075) 515-6755
  CP# 0919-6649784
  Ms. Emily Soriano (075) 515-4066
  43 Perez Blvd., Dagupan City
  CP # 0917-3654775
- ***RISE – BIÑAN, LAGUNA***
  Ms. Lilibeth P. Gabriel
  Unit 305, University Center, National Hi-way, Biñan, Laguna
  Tel. # (049) 839-0878 / 411-0383
  CP # 0919-8195899 / 0919-5766235
- ***RISE DINS E-COMMERCE, BAGUIO CITY***
  Engr. Ferdinand G.Tangalin
  Ms. Bella Navalta
  Rm 204 National Life Bldg., 110 Session Rd., Baguio City
  CP # 0919-2182997 / 0919-6709848
- ***RISE – VIRMAL, BATANGAS CITY***
  Mr. Virgilio M. Lichauco
  Lyceum Site, Kumintang Ibaba, Batangas City / Tel. # (043) 300-2001
  Telefax # (043) 300-5815
- ***RISE – PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN***
  Mr. Nixon M. Edora
  BM Road, Puerto Princessa City
  Tel. # (048) 433-5254

VISAYAS BUSINESS CENTERS

- ***RISE – ILOILO***
  (Orientation: every Saturday @ 3 PM.)
  Amigo Terrace Hotel, Iloilo City
  Tel. # (033) 336-6774

SUB-CENTERS

- ❑ ***RISE – Miag-ao, Iloilo***
  Ms. Nerry U. Gayatgay
  # 203,2nd Flr. Nito Plaza,Tajanlangit St., Miag-ao, Iloilo
  Tel. # (033) 315-9614 / 315-9370
- ❑ ***RISE – Calle Real Center***
  B & C Bldg., Solis cor. Iznart St., Iloilo City CP# 0918-7233673
- ❑ ***RISE – Multirich***
  AMIGO Plaza Mall, Iznart St., Iloilo City
  Tel. # (033) 337-9252
  CP # 0917-6405120 / 0919-6528190
- ❑ ***RISE – Jaro***
  Mr. T.O. Omero
  OMERO Photoshop
  (J.M. Basa Branch & Jaro CPU Branch)
  Tel. # (02) 337-0930
- ***RISE – Tagbilaran City, Bohol***
  Tel. # (038) 235-3853
  CP # 0917-8118079
  Email: *rrreds@pacific.net.ph*
- ***RISE – KALIBO, AKLAN***
  1503 G. Pastrana St., Kalibo Aklan
  Tel. # (036) 262-3562
  CP # 0917-6445180 / 0917-8441050
- ***RISE – NYALA BACOLOD***
  Ms. Maria Suzita "Zitte" Diaz-Ea
  NYALA RENT-A-CAR
  C7 Goldenfields Commercial Complex, Singcang, Bacolod City
  Tel. # (034) 433-1049 / 434-4589
  CP # 0918-9403282
  E-mail: *nyala@wbl.ph*
- ***RISE – MANDAUE CITY, CEBU***
  Mr. Samuel J. Quiño
  801 Albaño St., Subangdaku, Mandaue, Cebu
  Tel. # (032) 345-9711 / 343-6490

SOON TO OPEN . . .

MINDANAO BUSINESS CENTERS: Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, Butuan, General Santos, Cotabato, Ozamis, Zamboanga, and Malaybalay.
Orientation Seminar: ***September 14 to October 7, 2001.***
For information about the seminar schedule in your area, please contact CP # (0916)361-0695.

RISE CEBU CITY
Unit 8 Galleria Fuente, Mango Ave., Cebu City
CP # 0917-3836931

For parties interested to become Business Center Operators, visit/call:
RISE E-COMMERCE SYSTEMS, INC.
Suite 1906 Robinson's Galleria Corporate Center EDSA cor. Ortigas Complex, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (02)687-1737; 687-2917; 687-0941; 687-3413 to 14 Telefax No. 687-3261
Text Nos. (0919) 672-7808; (0919) 212-3230 / E-mail: *inquiry@rise-ecommerce.com*
You may now subscribe ONLINE through our website: www.rise-ecommerce.com

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Official Depository Bank of the Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID FOR CONTRACT PACKAGE NO. 9-A: SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND ASSEMBLY OF TRADING DESK

All corporations registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), with extensive experience in the supply, delivery and assembly of trading desk for office buildings, are invited to apply for pre-qualification, and bidding for Contract Package No. 9-A for the new LBP Headquarters Building in Malate, Manila with the following schedule:

Issuance of Pre-Qualification Form	Pre-Qualification Conference	Issuance of Notice of Pre-qualification/ Pre-disqualification	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date
Sept. 10 to 13 2001 @ 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Sept. 14, 2001 @ 10:00 AM	Sept. 26, 2001	Oct. 1, 2001 @ 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Oct. 2, 2001 @ 10:00 AM	Oct. 5, 2001 @ 10:00 AM

All interested Suppliers may obtain the Pre-qualification forms from the LBP Ad Hoc Group Office, c/o Project Management and Engineering Department (PMED), 2F LBP Building III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of P1,400.00. Only those suppliers who secured the pre-qualification documents shall be eligible to participate in the pre-qualification process.

After the pre-qualification conference, Suppliers shall be given three (3) calendar-days to signify in writing their interest to join the pre-qualification process by accomplishing the proforma Letter of Intent (LOI) included in the pre-qualification forms issued earlier. Attendance to the pre-qualification conference is among the requirements for pre-qualification.

Duly accomplished Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted to and received at the above-stated office not later than September 19, 2001, 3:00 PM, after which no documents will be accepted. All participating suppliers shall be notified in writing of the results of the pre-qualification.

Only pre-qualified suppliers may secure Bid Documents at the above-stated office/date upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

Pre-Qualification and Pre-Bid conferences will be held on the above-stated date and time at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2F, LBP Building III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Bidding shall be conducted using the two (2) envelope system (envelopes "A" and "B") to be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 AM on October 5, 2001 (the Bidding Date). Bidding shall be held at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2F, LBP Building III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

LBP reserves the right to change the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference and bidding date. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBP to pre-qualified bidders.

LBP likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense/loss that they may incur during the preparation of their bids, and to accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO T. HERNANDEZ**
Chairman,
Sub-Committee for LBP HQ Building Project

(PDI – Sept. 8, 9 & 10, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
Metro Manila

SANTIPONG SIGLA

September 6, 2001

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
RPBAC-IPB NO. 2001-03

The Department of Health - Center for Health Development for Metro Manila (CHD-MM) invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for various medical/dental and laboratory supplies for the use of CHD-MM.

Only duly accredited suppliers/manufacturers and/or exclusive distributors as certified by the Suppliers Accreditation Committee for Medical/Dental and Laboratory Supply of the DOH are qualified to participate in this bidding.

Bidding documents can be secured from Ms. Elenita Esmero or Ms. Teresita Padilla, Bldg. #1, 2/F, CHD-MM, Welfareville Compound, Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIVE HUNDRED PESOS, Philippine Currency (P500.00).**

Schedule of Activities

a. **Issuance of Bid documents**	September 17-20, 2001 (9:00 AM - 3:00 PM) Building 1, 2/F, CHD-MM Welfareville Cmpd., Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City
b. **Submission of Eligibility Requirements**	September 26, 2001 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM) Conference Room, LHAD Bldg., CHD-MM Welfareville Cmpd., Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City
c. **Pre-bid Conference**	September 26, 2001 (1:30 PM - 3:00 PM) Conference Room, LHAD Bldg., CHD-MM Welfareville Cmpd., Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City
d. **Submission of Sealed Bids**	October 4, 2001 (9:30 AM - 10:00 AM) Conference Room, LHAD Bldg., CHD-MM Welfareville Cmpd., Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City

For further information, please contact Ms. Esmero or Ms. Padilla, Secretariat, Bids & Awards Committee (BAC) for Office and Medical Supplies, at telephone numbers **718-3097** or **535-4521.**

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the CHD-MM's action.

(Sgd.) **DAVID J. LOZADA, JR., MD., MPA, CESO IV**
Director IV, CHD-MM

(PDI - Sept. 10 & 11, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS Pawnshop, Aliw Complex, Calvario, Meyc., Bulacan. All unredeemed pledges of March 2001 will be auctioned on Sept. 17, 2001, 8:30am, Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the Estate of the late EUSTAQUIO ABUEL has been partially settled extrajudicially by the heirs per Doc.330 page67,BkVI series of 2000 bef. not. pub. Atty. Gregorio Dino of Las Pinas City
PDI - Sept. 3,10 & 17,2001

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **Evelina Tiongson Muyot** has been extra-judicially settled among her heirs as per Doc.#185; Page#38; Book#3; Series of 2000 before Notary Public Mitos P. Lambino of Quezon City PDI-Sept. 10, 17, 24, 2001

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that stock certificates no. A0164, A12033, A14866, A16275, A17630, A2623, A3599, A5023, A8380, A9614 and AX0246 covering a total of 110,740 common shares issued by Central Azucarera de la Carlota in favor of Rosa Bengoa Madariaga were lost.
(PDI-Sept. 3, 10 & 17, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

•NOTICE OF LOSS• 49 PNB SHARES OF STOCK LOST IN THE NAME OF JORGE M. CARLOS

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE OF LOSS
Notice is hereby given on the loss of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company Stock certificate number 100017429 issued on August 15, 1997 and owned by **CONSOLACION Y. LIM** of 1486 Fuentes Drive, Roxas City. If no contest will be received within a period of thirty (30) days, a new copy of stock certificate will be issued
(PDI-Sept.10,17&24, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS
May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

Engr. Clemencio "Dodot" Condeza de Lara

joined his Creator on September 8, 2001
April 16, 1931 - September 8, 2001

His wife **Elvira Militante Sison**; children **Marissa, Marivic** & **Rick Gervais**; grandchildren **Marielle, Reese, Carlo** and **Chris**;

Brothers and sisters **Ex-Vice Mayor Felicisimo** & **Levene de Lara, Dr. Domingo de Lara M. Kitang** (†), **Esperanza** (†) & **Johnny Motoomull, Sr.** (†), **Dr. Ciceron** & **Paz de Lara, Amalia C. de Lara, Dr. Pedro** & **Francisca de Lara, Cecilia** & **Judge Potenciano de los Reyes, Jr.** and **Patricia C. de Lara**;

In-laws **Atty. Antero** & **Mila Sison, Elizabeth S. Tagle** and **Joan G. Sison**, request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows, Quezon City. Interment will be on September 12, 2001, Wednesday after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

"... you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts."
Psalm 63:2

"Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!" *(Matthew 5:10)*

Forever in our hearts...
We remember our beloved

Atty. Jose "Pepe/Joe" Santiago Atienza

Knight of the Pontifical Order of St. Sylvestre

who joined his Maker on 10 September 1998

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated today at the following Churches:

- **Christ the King Parish Church**, Greenmeadows, Quezon City — 6:00 AM, 7:00 AM, 6:00 PM
- **Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Church**, Welfareville, Mandaluyong — 6:00 AM
- **Shrine of our Lady of Peace & Good Voyage**, Antipolo — 6:00 AM
- **St. Peter Parish Church**, Apalit, Pampanga — 6:00 AM
- **Villa San Miguel Community Chapel**, Mandaluyong — 6:15 AM
- **Parish Church of the Resurrection**, BF Homes, Parañaque — 6:30 AM
- **Santuario de San Jose**, Greenhills, Mandaluyong — 6:15 PM

His wife, **Esther M. Cacnio**; children/in-laws **Paz, Jun** & **Rae, Manny** & **Rona** and **Mike**; and grandchildren **Jella, Julianne, Justinne, Lyka, Mico** and **Tricia** request relatives, friends and pious readers to always remember **PEPE** in their prayers.

EVELYN "LEN" L. HERNANDEZ BANDAY

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on September 09, 2001 at the age of 41.

Her loving husband, **Atty. Jose "Joey" T. Banday**, father, **Atty. B. Al. Hernandez**, mother (†) **Angelita Lapid Hernandez**; sisters and brothers **Joyce, Ross** and **Rico, Carol** and **Eric, Ramon** and **Marites**; her nephews and nieces, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, grandmother, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in Chapel St. Claire, 3rd floor, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Holy Masses will be offered daily. Interment will be on Saturday, September 15, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Parañaque.

"Happy are those who have died in the Lord; let them rest from their labors for their good deeds go with them." *Rev. 14.13*

GILBERTO L. GAMEZ M.D.

Professor Emeritus, University of Sto. Tomas

Peacefully joined his Creator in Fort Myers, Florida, U.S.A. on September 1, 2001.

His bereaved wife **Luz (Nellie)**; children **Gerry** and **Marivic, Jun, Ding, Angel, Mike, Tina** and **Glen, Susan** and **Jay**; grandchildren **Katrina, Angela, Mimi, Justin, Isabella, Sofia, Vincent**; sister **Consuelo del Pan**; sisters-in-law **Aurora A. Mendoza, Herminia A. Diño**, and **Nenita A. Gilmore** request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains will arrive on Tuesday, 6:00 a.m. and will be brought immediately to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at Doña Juana Rodriguez Street, Quezon City.

Mass and Necrological Services will be held at 9:00 a.m., September 13, 2001 at the Mt. Carmel Chapel and at 2:00 p.m. same day, at the Santissimo Rosario Parish Church, UST Chapel.

TRANQUILINO E. VERGARA

"Lolo Kilin"
U.S. Army Major (Ret.)

Born on July 9, 1902
peacefully joined his Creator on September.7, 2001.

His bereaved wife **Mary**, son **John**, brothers **Matias, Sr.** (†), **Emilio** (†) and **Segundo**; sisters **Felecitas Monje** (†) and **Amparo Abad**, nephews and nieces, grandchildren and great grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest of his soul.

His remains will be brought to San Esteban, Ilocos Sur where it will lie in state at the San Esteban Cathedral.

Interment to be announced later.

PABLITO JUANIR MERIN

Died in the Grace of our Lord on September 7, 2001 at the age of 61 in San Pablo City, Laguna.

His bereaved wife **Brenda Azores**, children **Jake & Mimi, Mark & Liezl, Karen & RC**, grandchildren **Jamhille, Justinna, Ioakim, Keano, Marielle & Kurt**, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their family residence at #13 M. Paulino St., San Pablo City, Laguna.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 13, 2001 at 8:00 a.m. at San Pablo City Cemetery.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Merle Cuenca Gamalinda

who joined her Creator on August 28, 2001.

Sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

ALICIA LEDESMA MARAVILLA

Died in the Grace of our Lord on September 7, 2001 at the age of 76.

We, her bereaved family, husband **PAKING**; children **REBECCA, HERMINIO** and **VALERIE**; grandson **FRANCIS**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray with them for the eternal repose of her soul.

Funeral Mass will be at 3:00 in the afternoon on September 12, 2001 at San Jose Parish Church, Iloilo City.

Interment will follow at the Christ the King Memorial Park.

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.

2 Cor. 4:14

CLASSIFIEDS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
CAMARINES NORTE PROVINCIAL OFFICE

NOTICE OF COVERAGE

Pursuant to Section 7 of RA 6657, the following Landowners are hereby notified that their property/properties hereunder listed to wit:

	Landowner	Location	Area	Title
1.	Franco Pimentel	Binatagan, Basud, CN	11.0138	T-7685
2.	Eva Pimentel	Binatagan, Basud, CN	9.2649	T-14490
3.	Benjamin K. Law	Exciban, Labo, CN	23.1123	T-18233
4.	Alejandra Tiongson	Macogon/Exciban, Labo	14.3059	T-5602
5.	Alejandra Tiongson	Macogon/Exciban, Labo	5.0523	P-2460

Are now covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. Under A.O. 11, Series of 1990, the right to choose the area to retain must be exercised within sixty (60) days from the date of Publication of Notice of Coverage. Failure to exercise this right will be deemed a waiver of right to choose the area.

Under Executive Order No. 405, we shall request the Land Bank of the Philippines to determine the Land Value of the said property being acquired pursuant to Section 17 of R.A, 6657. Upon receipt of the Memorandum of Valuation from Land Bank of the Philippines.

We shall advise you of the Complete Value of this property.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) **ANGUSTIA V. VILLAGRACIA**
OIC PARO 11

(PDI - Sept. 10, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P., Diliman, Quezon City

AMENDED INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the:

Supply of:

62 BRAND NEW AGRICULTURAL FARM TRACTORS AND FARM IMPLEMENTS

AGRICULTURAL FARM TRACTORS

Specification	No. of Units
115 HP	44
105 HP	7
100 HP	1
90 HP	10

FARM IMPLEMENTS

Item Description	No. of Units
Mouldboard Plows	45
Disc Plows	6

Total Budget : Php 117,800,000.00

To be delivered to different points in the Philippines

Only pre-qualified bidders as of **September 21, 2001** shall be allowed to participate in the Public Bidding to be held on **September 27, 2001** at the SRA Social Hall at 9:00 AM.

Pre-qualification forms shall be issued starting **September 10, 2001** and the deadline for the submission of said requirements shall be on **September 13, 2001**.

A pre-qualification conference shall be held on **September 11** at 2:00 p.m. at the SRA Social Hall.

The list of qualified bidders shall be released on **September 21**. Thereafter, bid forms shall be issued for a non-refundable cost of Php500.00 each.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on **September 24** at the SRA Social Hall at 9:00 AM.

All bids must be accompanied by bid bonds in the amount of 5% of the total cost of the tender or offer—either in cash, Manager's check or surety bond accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

For further inquiries, please call:

THE SECRETARIAT
SRA Bidding and Awards Committee
Tel. No. 929-65-37

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality or defect therein, and to accept any or all offers that may be considered most advantageous to the SRA.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI – Sept. 8, 9 & 10, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry and Investments Building
385 Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City

Fax No. 8954024 Tel. Nos. 8976682 8901332

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of NOBLE HORIZONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION with address at Pag-utlan, Liloan, Cebu for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as amended by Republic Act 7918 as New Export Producer of Furniture, Fixtures and Furnishings at a capacity of 8,000 Pieces Per Year and with proposed plant site at Pag-utlan, Liloan, Cebu, has been officially accepted on September 3, 2001 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) CHITA O. ANGELES
Director
Legal Services Department

(PDI--Sept. 10, 2001)

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Napocor, GSIS agree to hold joint bidding

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE STATE-RUN National Power Corp. prevailed over the Government Service Insurance System on their bitter dispute over the reinsurance of the power firm's $10-billion assets, with President Macapagal-Arroyo herself ordering a joint bidding last Friday.

Malacañang, however, has yet to issue a memorandum to formalize the order that President Macapagal announced during a press conference, but sources say it would be issued "very soon."

Napocor's industrial all-risk policy covering fixed assets including power plants, substations, and submarine transmission cables, would expire at the end of the month.

GSIS president Winston Garcia and Napocor president Jesus Alcordo have been at odds over the past weeks following Alcordo's insistence to get the power firm to actively participate in hiring a reinsurance broker.

Garcia maintained that the GSIS had the mandate to insure government properties including those of Napocor.

But Alcordo insisted that the power firm should have a hand in the process since "we are the client and we pay for the premiums."

"What we are suggesting is that we should participate in the process of getting the best rates and the best broker for our insurance," Alcordo had said.

Napocor had invited the GSIS to name two of its personnel to represent the latter in a joint bidding committee, which the GSIS declined.

The power firm meant to go ahead on its own with the bidding last Friday, but it did not push through.

Apparently, Malacañang had decided on the matter earlier last week.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, who chairs the Napocor board, earlier said the process of reinsuring government properties should be "under a transparent procedure."

Napocor said it decided to take an active role in the choice of brokers and reinsurers due to the amount involved and "to ensure greater transparency and accountability."

"If we are not involved in the bidding, how do we know that the GSIS is giving us the best rate for our insurance?" Alcordo asked.

For his part, GSIS's Garcia said there was "something wrong" with Alcordo's position on the issue.

He disclosed that Alcordo asked him to deal with a "private consultant" over the scheduled bidding.

"Something is wrong. He wants me to deal with this private consultant. Come on, I am not a person who will make backroom deals on this thing," Garcia told the INQUIRER.

Alcordo denied having a hidden agenda on the matter, saying he could not have made such insinuations since he had never been alone with Garcia during the few times they met.

SEC eyes accreditation of firms' external auditors

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is crafting a circular covering the accreditation of external auditors of listed firms, stockbrokers and possibly pre-need companies.

An official of the SEC said that the circular would also require these companies' external auditors to immediately report any fraud or material error found in their audits to the SEC.

"The circular will follow global standards for audit," the official said.

At present, listed companies, stockbrokers and pre-need companies have sole discretion over the hiring of external auditors.

Banks, on the other hand, can only choose auditors from the list of accredited auditors provided by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista stressed that the Philippines has to adopt international accounting standards to attract foreign investors.

The Philippines is set to adopt by the end of this year six new accounting standards and several more by 2004.

Earlier this year, Joseph Bernardino, chief executive and managing partner of international auditing giant Andersen, pointed out that the Philippines could gain a competitive advantage in attracting capital by fully adopting international accounting standards.

Bernardino notes that the Philippines was "not there" yet in terms of totally adopting international accounting standards although there was "considerable momentum" toward that direction.

"The more transparency and the more predictability (of companies), the more you are likely to attract capital," Bernardino said.

"Investor demands are clear: They want high-quality, internationally comparable business information that enables them to make sound investment decisions," he added.

Cesar Purisima, chair of Andersen member firm, SGV & Co., explains that, historically, local accounting rules were patterned after those of the United States.

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MICHAEL JOHN HENDERSON, Sykes Managing Director for Asia & Pacific Rim, has worked for call center industry for 7 years in Edinburg, Scotland and joined Sykes in 1997. Sykes has 44 call centers worldwide with 17,000 employees and over 15,000 customer care agents. Henderson manages the Philippines and Shanghai operations in Asia.

JAIME G. DEL ROSARIO, Country Managing Director of the Philippine operations of Accenture (formerly Andersen Consulting), the world's largest management consulting and technology services organization with over 65,000 employees in 45 countries. Del Rosario is three-time Director of Philippine Computer Society, holds Masters degree in Computer Applications & Technology from AIT.

JOHN MICHAEL T. TICZON, Managing Director of Software Services of SPI Technologies. SPI Technolologies Inc. is a leading software provider of world class technology services since 1980 and ISO 9000 certified software company. Ticzon has worked with AT&T, New Jersey, US prior joining SPI Technologies Inc. and holds MBA degree in Computer Systems from City University of New York, US.

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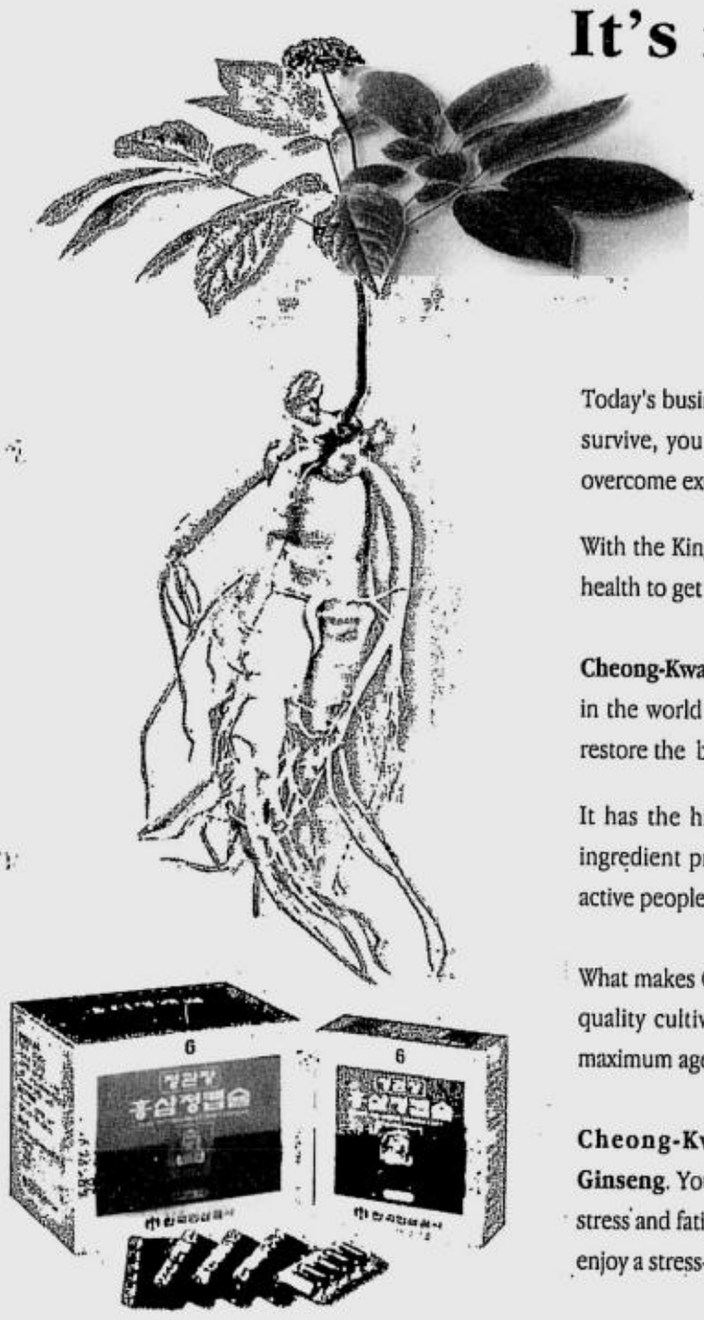

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INFOTECH
LEO MAGNO, Editor

HP-Compaq merger: Sign of things to come

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

IS THE PERSONAL computer era over, or are we experiencing what analysts have long predicted, that the PC industry would soon slow down to a crawl?

Last week, Hewlett-Packard Co. and Compaq Computer Corp. announced the biggest merger of the year that is expected to create an $87-billion giant—a company value that is just a few billions shy from IBM. The merger eclipses the buyout of Digital Equipment Corp. by Compaq three years ago, a deal worth $9 billion.

The merged computer giant combines operations of the $48.8-billion Hewlett Packard and a $40.4-billion Compaq, creating a company that will have 160 operations worldwide with over 145,000 employees.

The merger involves a stock swap deal where Compaq shareholders will receive 0.6325 of a newly issued HP share for each share of Compaq, giving the merger a total value of around $25 billion. HP will also own about 64 percent of the merged company.

Carly Fiorina, HP CEO and chair, will become the new company's CEO, while Compaq chair and CEO Michael Capellas will become president.

The new HP will be structured around four operating units, including imaging and printing business, access devices business, IT infrastructure business and service business (outsourcing). The merger will generate cost savings of around $2.5 billion annually for the new company.

If everything goes well, the merger will be completed by the first half of 2002. The new company will be headquartered in Palo Alto, California.

Last Friday, International Data Corp. announced that global shipments of PCs next year will still remain low. The market research firm said that the continuing weak demand will force shipments down by 1.6 percent this year to 130 million units. Last June, IDC downgraded its forecast for this year to 5.8 percent growth in shipments from a forecast of 10.3 percent. Also, the research group noted that PC

HP-COMPAQ/ p. B17

HP-Compaq marriage unlikely to succeed, says research firm

SINGAPORE—The merger between Hewlett-Packard (HP) and Compaq Computer Corp. is unlikely to succeed and will only benefit competitors if it gets the go-ahead, US-based research house Gartner Inc. said.

HP's $25-billion takeover bid for Compaq was "defensive" and failed to address the issues facing the two technology giants, Gartner said in a report received here.

"Facing unprecedented uncertainties in the market, the two companies' management teams have made a defensive move," said Gartner. "The two once-great companies will likely not live up to their past achievements by combining their assets."

The deal, which has been approved by the boards of the two companies, still needs the approval of regulators and shareholders.

Gartner said: "It is unlikely that HP and Compaq will complete the deal."

The merged entity would have to fight to retain its market share against established competitors amid customer uncertainties and product discontinuities that will result from the deal.

It pointed out that the $2.5 billion dollars in cost savings by 2004 projected by the companies was only equivalent to 3 percent of the costs for running the two companies.

The deal also would require the companies to grapple with two personal computer businesses, four server architectures, seven operating systems, four storage architectures as well as several service businesses, Gartner said.

It added that there would be many overlaps in technologies, distributors, services, facilities and jobs, raising the prospect of further job cuts.

Garter predicted the merger "could equate to several thousand job losses" in the Asia Pacific region.

Gartner added that without significant investment, the companies would still lose out in fast-growing services such as consulting, system integration and outsourcing.

Gartner said, should the deal take off, customers and partners of Compaq and HP could expect at least two years of major uncertainties across their business activities. *AFP*

DotPH CEO appeals junked libel lawsuit

DOTPH chief executive officer and .PH domain administrator Jose Emmanuel Disini filed an appeal on Thursday at the Department of Justice seeking to reverse the dismissal of the $2-million libel case against Interdotnet Philippines country manager Fernando Contreras Jr.

City Prosecutor Maria Paz Reyes of Pasig City dismissed Case No. PSG 01-05-10672 two weeks ago after finding no sufficient evidence to indicate that malice was present in Contreras' statements. Disini submitted various electronic documents as evidence.

In a statement, Theodore Te, legal counsel of Disini, said that Disini will raise questions on the prosecutor's decision.

"(She) has mistakenly dismissed the case and wrongly applied incorrect legal standards in coming to her conclusion," Te said.

The lawyer argued that the prosecutor's claim that "'the intent or purpose then of the speaker or writer is not relevant' is clearly incorrect since intent is precisely what is relevant in a libel case."

"The prosecutor forgets that criminal intent is indispensable in a libel case. We have shown that Contreras' intent was to defame, because he knew (or should have known) that the statement was false—as confirmed by his colleague Dr. Rudy Villarica. But Contreras went ahead and made it public anyway. That is the essence of libel here," Te added.

The appeal also raised questions over Prosecutor Yson's use of the "man on the street" standard in dismissing the suit.

"The only affidavits that the prosecutor seemed to rely on in determining whether the statements were libelous were those submitted by Contreras himself. No weight whatsoever was given to the affidavits submitted by Disini," Te said.

The appeal states that "there was absolutely no reason for the Investigating Prosecutor to prefer Contreras' witnesses to those of (Disini's) as there was no independent basis for her to conclude that Contreras' witnesses were more credible than (Disini's)...The only possible explanation for the preference is that the Investigating Prosecutor preferred Contreras' witnesses

DOTPH/ p.B18

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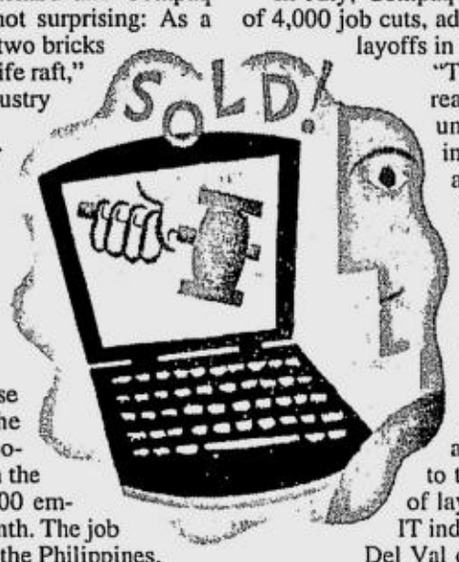
HP-Compaq merger . . .

(From page B16)

revenues will drop by 10.8 percent worldwide this year.

The market research group predicted a weaker market for next year as it predicts global PC unit shipments to decline by 6.9 percent, or 138.6 million units. The group previously predicted a 12.2-percent growth in PC shipments, or 155.9 million units. Revenues in 2002 are also expected to decline by 2 percent.

"The problems that plagued the HP deal nicely illustrate the depths to which (the PC industry) has sunk. Sinking, in fact, is what shares of both Hewlett-Packard and Compaq did last week. Which is not surprising: As a wise man once said, tying two bricks together doesn't get you a life raft," Eric Savitz of the new Industry Standard wrote recently.



He said that the merger is a result of two companies trying to survive a market that has become vicious to the point of forcing giants to merge.

Indeed, the general malaise in the PC industry spares no one.

Take for instance Japanese company Fujitsu Ltd. The company underwent a corporate revamp that resulted in the layoffs of more than 16,000 employees worldwide last month. The job cuts affected operations in the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

In the Philippines, the company has decided to shut down the manufacture of hard disk drives for the desktop PC by October. Forced by competition and stiff price wars, the Japanese company is on the verge of abandoning the PC market, as it focuses on making components for servers and file storage.

"Most likely we're gearing toward putting an end to the manufacture of hard disk drives for the desktop (PC) market," Ernie Espinosa, assistant vice president of human resources development and general affairs of Fujitsu Computer Products Corp. of the Philippines (FCPCP), told the INQUIRER.

The local subsidiary is at the stage of finishing all "pending" orders of hard disk drives for PCs until September or October. It currently operates an 8.4-hectare hard disk drive manufacturing plant in Laguna. The plant, which employs 8,500 people, produces an average of 1 million units of hard disk drives a month. Roughly 60 percent of these disk drives are designed for PCs.

As a result of the slowdown in PC sales worldwide, the local Fujitsu plant was also forced to reduce working days from six to four per week as early as May 2001. It is also freezing further hiring, and has resorted to attrition within the company. The company discontinued the services of at least 300 contractual employees in the last few months.

Fujitsu has yet to announce if there would be further reductions from the present 8,500 employees in the local manufacturing plant.

Meanwhile, personal computer maker Gateway Inc. also announced "massive restructuring" plans that include 4,600 job cuts and closing down of operations in the Pacific Rim and Europe last month. The company said it would only focus on the US market as the price war between the PC makers has become more vicious.

In July, Compaq announced another round of 4,000 job cuts, adding to the previous 4,500 layoffs in the company.

"This is really news to me. I really didn't know about it until late (Tuesday) morning," Raymund del Val, managing director of Hewlett-Packard Philippines, told local reporters last week when asked to react on the Compaq-HP merger. Del Val said he only found out about the merger the same day it was announced on television. "Even our customers were as surprised as me. But we can now smile to this news following stories of layoffs and slowdown in the IT industry."

Del Val declined, however to comment on the impact of the merger on the local operations of the computer company. The local subsidiary currently has a total of 110 employees.

"I don't know if there will be more (reduction)," Del Val said when asked if the merger will cause further job cuts in the local operations.

Analysts, however, fear that the merger will result in more consolidations and job cuts.

Compaq employees have, in fact, very little reason to smile these days.

An industry source said that after the news was known among the local employees of Compaq, most were shocked, and feared that they would soon lose their jobs.

Industry sources speculate that lay offs would likely happen more in Compaq than in HP.

Compaq Computer Philippines president Nilo Cruz, however, assured that "the merger is more about combining and complementing the strengths of the two companies and their management teams that will, thereby, generate greater opportunities for both companies' customers and partners. This is when invention and inspiration will begin to unfold."

Compaq is no stranger to mergers. In 1998,

HP-COMPAQ/ p. B18

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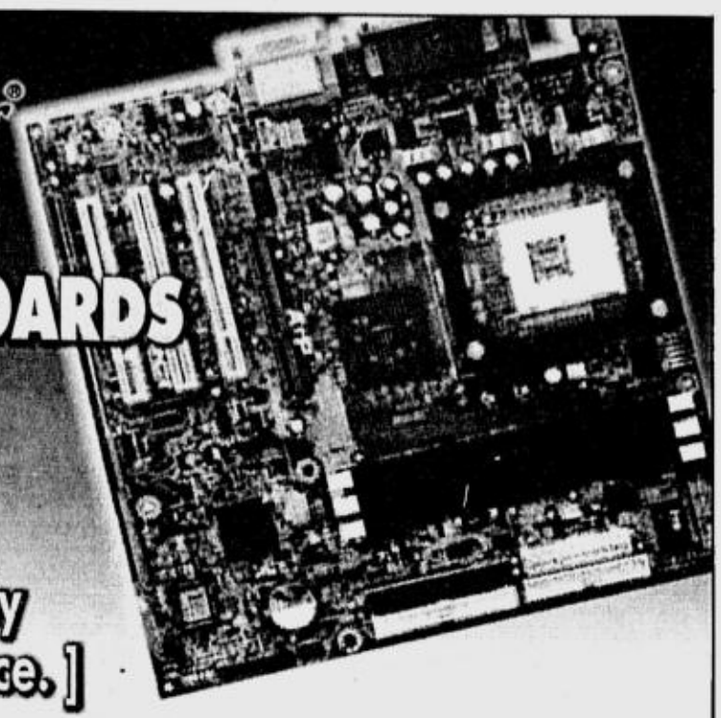

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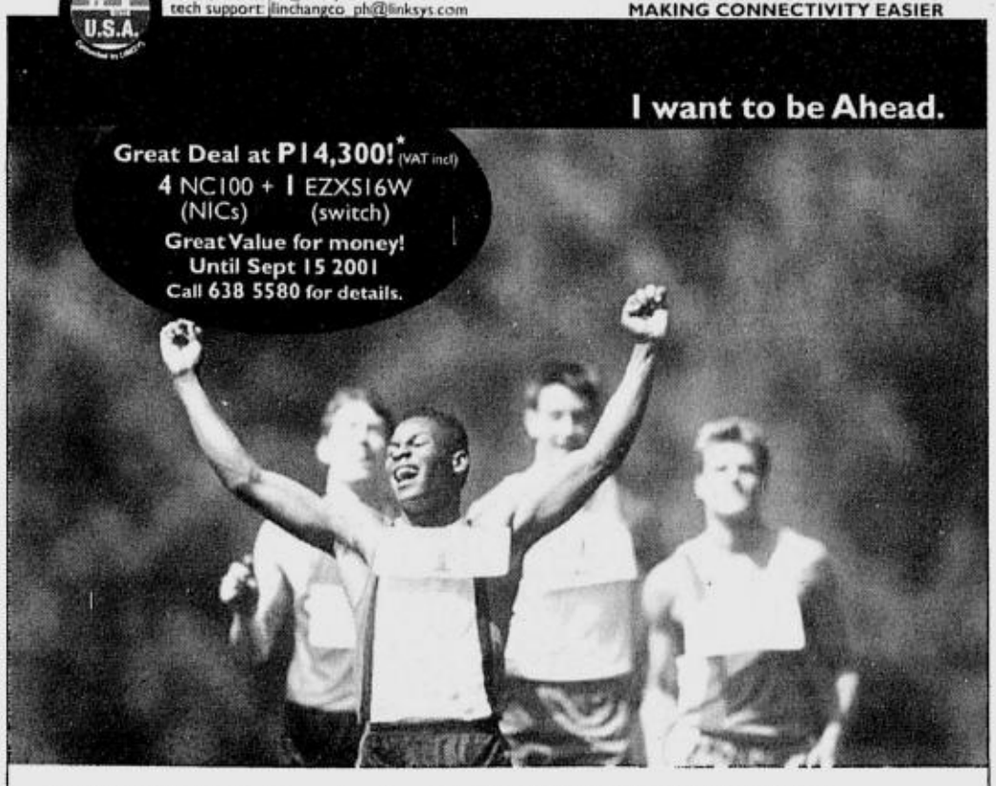

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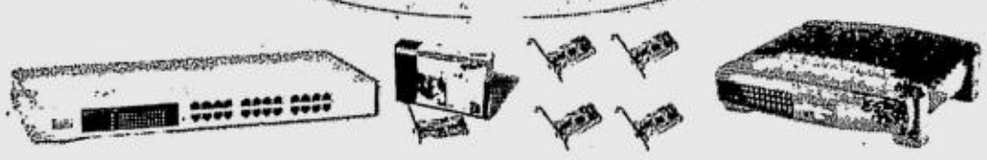

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'.info' domain to be launched next week

MONTEVIDEO—A new Internet domain name, ".info," will be open to registration by the public next week, participants at an Internet conference announced here Friday.

The suffix .info is among a new batch of domain names being released to ease an Internet bottleneck created by massive demand for addresses.

"There are millions of people and companies waiting to register in .com," said Roland La Plante, marketing chief of the Internet registrar consortium Afilias chosen to run the new domain by the International Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) which governs the Internet.

"It's very difficult to get what you want because it's probably already taken," said La Plante, announcing that .info will be launched on Wednesday.

In November ICANN announced that it was to create seven new domains, doubling the cyberspace for new sites—creating ".biz," ".info," ".pro" among others.

Under the rules established by ICANN, trademark holders were given until Aug. 27 to register their names, with challenges decided by the World Intellectual Property Organization.

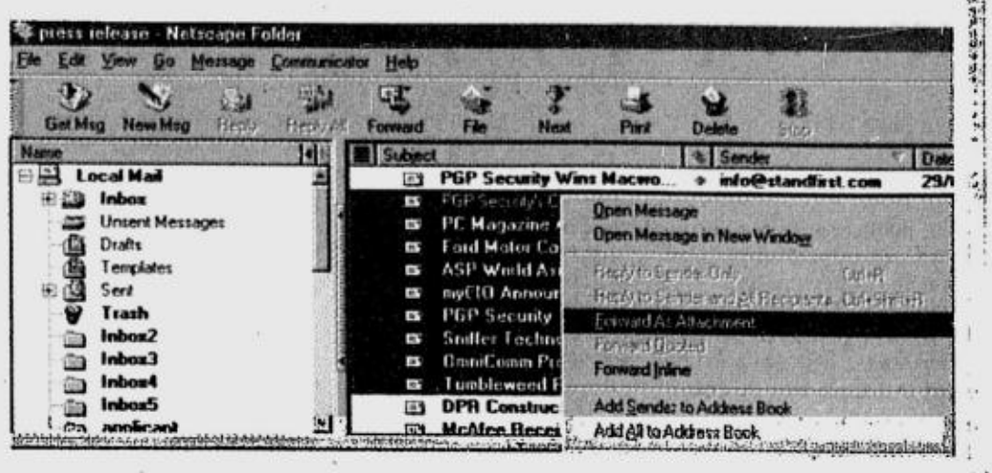
As of Wednesday, registration in the .info domain will be opened to the general public and will be governed without restrictions on who may register.

The existing six domain names—".com," ".net," ".org," ".edu," ".int," ".mil" and ".gov"—have become overloaded, making it harder to find names not already in use for new websites.

"There has been a lot of pressure from the Internet community over the past several years to introduce other TLDs (Top Level Domains)," said Plant.

ICANN, a non-profit corporation, is meeting here from Friday until Monday to seek consensus on new policies for controlling the Internet address system.

AFP



How to forward multiple e-mail messages all at once using Netscape Messenger

BY JERRY LIAO

IN NETSCAPE Messenger, you can actually forward multiple e-mail messages to someone all at the same time. Heres how:

(1) Select the messages you wish to forward (Hold down CTRL key for multiple selection)

(2) Selected messages will be highlighted

(3) Right-click the group of highlighted messages

(4) Choose "Forward As Attachment"

(5) A new message will be opened with all your messages set up as attachments

(6) Simply fill in the the recipient's address, CC, BCC, or Group and then click "Send"

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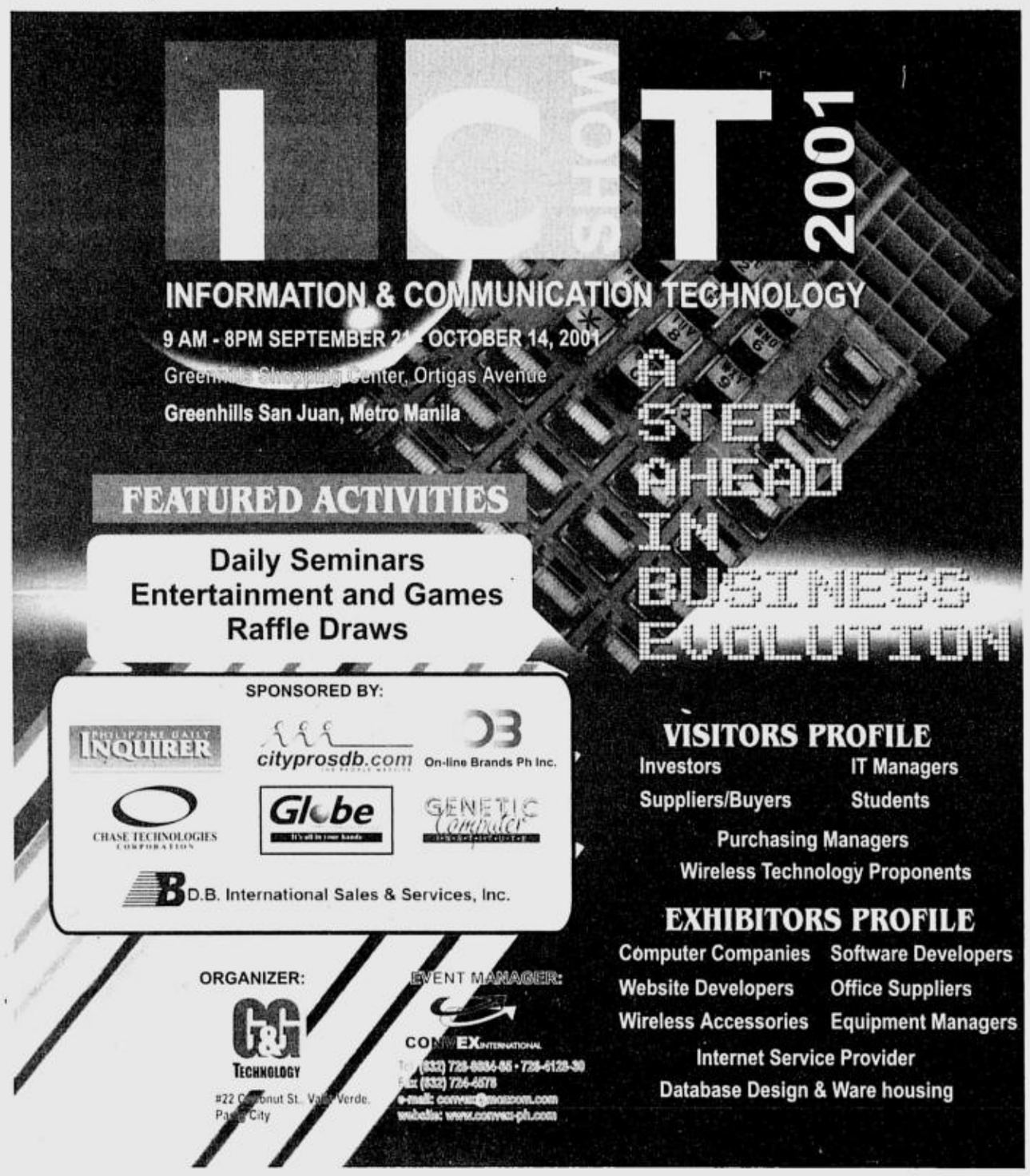

22-year-old kills mother over Net use, is executed

BEIJING—A 22-year-old man in eastern China's Zhejiang province was executed for the fatal poisoning of his mother, who had constantly complained about his Internet use, the Chinese state press said.

Zhao Jieqi was executed for the poisoning of his jobless mother with methanol and sleeping pills last Dec. 5, Xinhua news agency said. After the murder, Zhao hid his mother's body in a sealed closet on the sun deck of their Hangzhou City apartment, the paper said.

Zhao's mother had repeatedly reprimanded the boy for failing to find work and for constantly wasting her unemployment pay at a local Internet café, the report said. The boy further lied to his father, who worked in Beijing, saying that the mother had found work in a neighboring town as a maid and was not at home.

The body of the mother was finally discovered on Jan. 28, nearly two months after she was killed, it said.

AFP

Unisys makes online bill management easy

UNISYS, working with a number of major banks in the United Kingdom, is redefining billing and payments with the launch of Unisys e-@ction Electronic Bill Presentment and Payment Solutions (e-BPP).

The e-BPP is the first service of its kind that brings together key players in the bill payment process: The billers, banks and their customers. This initiative will provide a comprehensive online service to customers and drastically reduce the amount of paper-based mail.

The service will consolidate bills or statements from major billers or utilities and present them to the customers through their preferred banking websites. An e-mail will inform customers when there is a bill to view. Then, through the bank's website, customers can review the information, request more details and initiate payments. As this is accomplished by taking advantage of their bank's existing electronic payment mechanisms, customers can be confident in the security and integrity of the service.

Unisys e-@ction Electronic Bill Presentment and Payment Solutions give banks the opportunity to leverage and promote existing branded online payment services to customers in preference to cheque and cash payments.

Payers will be able to view all bills and account information at the same time and choose when to pay bills, thus eliminating the need to write and post cheques.

Electronic bill presentment and payment is already an area of huge growth.

Industry analyst Gartner Group predicts that the e-BPP market will rocket from $4 billion in the US in 2000 to $19 billion in 2005.

Moreover, Datamonitor reports that CEOs from Europe's major 200 banks are making e-BPP a top priority. The market for value-added financial services over the Internet is growing, and with e-BPP, banks have the opportunity of generating new revenue via the Internet.

DotPH CEO appeals libel case

(From page B16)

and believed them more—for reasons known only to her. This indicates bias that is prejudicial to (Disini); moreover, it taints the resolution and renders it null and void," Te said.

Disini believes that his appeal stands on very strong grounds for overturning the prosecutor's decision.

Contreras said in a separate telephone interview that he will formally respond to the appeal as soon as they get a copy of the appeal.

"If he wants to prolong it, then *wala akong magagawa* (I cannot do anything)," he told INQ7.net. "On my end, I think a decision was made."

Contreras said that he will be using the same evidence to answer Disini's appeal.

Disini sued Contreras for libel on May 29, seeking $1 million in moral damages and $1 million in exemplary damages. The case was filed at the Office of the City Prosecutor in Pasig.

HYPERLINKS

Read the history and development of this story online at www.inq7.net:

Electronic libel case dismissed for lack of evidence (Aug. 27, 2001)
http://www.inq7.net/inf/2001/aug/27/inf_1-1.htm

Interdotnet chief expected to countersue DotPH CEO (June 18, 2001)
http://www.inq7.net/inf/2001/jun/18/inf_1-1.htm

DotPH CEO files $2-M libel case vs Contreras (June 8, 2001)
http://www.inq7.net/inf/2001/jun/08/inf_1-1.htm

HP-Compaq merger . . .

(From page B17)

the company merged with Digital Equipment Corp. The merger was meant to increase the product lines of Compaq into minicomputers and Internet content. However, as the years went by, Compaq's stock value declined further after the merger.

Just like the Compaq-Digital merger, the Compaq-HP marriage is a big deal that has failed to impress the industry. In fact, speculations on HP chief Carly Fiorina's exit from the company abounded before the merger agreement was announced.

So is the merger for good or not? Is it for better or for worse?

"It's not going to be easy in the current environment. Clearly, the tech downturn has yet to run its course. Once upon a time, the conventional wisdom held that a rebound would come in the third or fourth quarter; but few people still believe that," Savitz of the new Industry Standard wrote.

Savitz believes that the merger is more of a desperate attempt by the two companies to stay afloat in an industry plagued by a weakening demand and stiff competition.

Meanwhile, Michael Dell, chief of Dell Computer is expecting to "capitalize" on the current "confusion" among customers of the merged companies.

Another PC heavyweight, Gateway Inc., expects to strengthen its operations in the North America market (the United States and Canada). The PC company known for its black and white "cow" motif has slashed its Asian manufacturing operations and workforce and instead will focus on the US market, while retaining its channels and sales linkages in Asia.

Clearly, the PC industry is undergoing an upheaval, and the heavyweights are starting to feel the weight of the crisis.

THE GOVERNMENT'S best and brightest economists unveil the Macapagal administration's new economic blueprint. From left: Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin and Trade Secretary Mar Roxas. ROGER CARPIO

BSP seen issuing $600M in bonds

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said Friday it was evaluating proposals from four banks to handle a $600-million, 10-year bond offering this year to augment its dollar reserves.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters the government would accept one of the offers should the country's gross international reserves deteriorate to below $14 billion.

With $14 billion, the country will be able to finance about four months worth of imports. The amount is twice that of the country's short-term debts.

The $600-million, 10-year bond offering is the latest in a series of borrowings that the government is lining up to augment its reserves and improve its budget position.

The National Power Corp. said earlier it would issue at least $400 million worth of seven-year bonds.

On Friday, telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and the national government said it would enter into a separate $250-million, 10-year and 15-year bond deal.

The government has concluded a deal for a private placement of 15-year bonds worth a total of at least $250 million with Credit Suisse First Boston.

"The structured financing will raise minimum proceeds of $250 million at a cost competitive with the public market issue as originally proposed by CSFB. The bond will have a 15-year final maturity," the Department of Finance said in a statement.

There was no word on what the interest cost to the government would be.

CSFB was earlier named as sole bookrunner for a global bond issue worth at least $500 million the government planned to float this year.

The global bond float has been delayed pending regulatory approvals from the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

"While waiting for the US SEC, there are other financing options available to us to finance our budgetary requirements and this is one of them," National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said. "We continue to look at all other proposals on the table."

Proceeds from the private placement with CSFB would fund the government's budgetary requirements this year, Edeza said.

In March, the central bank borrowed $740 million from a syndicate of 19 banks. A month later, it tapped a $200-million private placement arranged by JP Morgan Chase & Co. The loan proceeds were used to pay $870 million of maturing obligations in the first six months of the year.

Gov't to hold hearings on car insurance plan

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

IN the spirit of transparency, Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said Friday a public hearing would be held to discuss a memorandum on vehicle insurance.

"The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has good intentions, but the (DOTC) legal department suggested that we conduct a public hearing to allow all those concerned with the transport industry to participate and give their side about the issue," Alvarez said.

On June 4, the Land Transportation Office, Insurance Commission, Insurance and Surety Association of the Philippines and consulting firm DTech Management Inc. signed a memorandum of agreement to form a consortium that would provide compulsory third-party liability insurance policies to motorists.

Dtech was tapped to install a computerized system that would monitor transactions involving vehicle insurance. It would also set up a bank-based payment system for those registering their vehicles.

The company would remit to the government all taxes from the premiums paid and make sure premiums would be paid on time. It would also hold area-based actual studies at no cost to the government.

In return, the company would be given a service fee for every transaction.

Numerous complaints from various groups that the memorandum may result in an insurance monopoly, however, have prompted Alvarez to suspend it on Aug. 27.

He said the memorandum would remain suspended pending a public hearing on it.

Alvarez had yet to set a date for this hearing.

"This is in keeping with the public interest. While the MOA appears to be getting support from some groups, it has also been earning complaints from other groups in the same industry. (A public hearing) will provide a venue for these groups to meet and (air) their sides," he said.

Alvarez earlier said "it would be better to iron out all the questions being raised against the MOA if only to prove that all transactions undertaken by the (DOTC) and its attached agencies are all aboveboard."

He explained that the consortium was formed to prevent fly-by-night insurance companies from preying on unsuspecting vehicle owners.

Gov't presses ouster of Estrada nominees

(From page B7)

blast with the litigation process. He said that if there were initiatives for a possible compromise, it did not come from the administration's side.

Carranza also said the PCGG had worked with the OSG to prepare the case to be filed against Kilayko, either at the Ombudsman or Sandiganbayan, to prevent the oil mill purchase deal.

However, he said that should the high court issue a clarification that the PCGG could replace the Estrada nominees, the oil mill case would be voided because the new UCPB board of directors and management team would simply rescind the deal.

Carranza noted that the Supreme Court ruling was expected to come out within the next few days.

Meanwhile, UCPB justified the lease contract with the private oil mills. It said the CIIF approved on Sept. 22, 1999, the agreement in view of the upsurge in copra supply in the last quarter of 1999, and projections of an even better copra supply situation and the increase in local and export demand for crude and refined oil in 2000.

Following the board approval, the lease agreement was executed on Oct. 16, 1999, covering two oil mills, two oil refineries and their copra buying stations. It noted that auditing firm SGV had been commissioned to assess the operational performance of the leased facilities.

Quoting the SGV report, UCPB refuted claims that the deal was disadvantageous to the CIIF group, sayings that the lease agreement even produced the following benefits to the CIIF Oil Mills:

- Increased copra purchases totaling 215,736 metric tons in 2000 and 95,397 MT in the first half of 2001, which translate to additional sales of P2.3 billion in 2000 and P1.2 billion in the first half of 2001.
- Contributed additional pre-tax income from operations after deducting the total fixed cost of the lease and other related expenses amounted to P104.755 million in 2000 and P69.853 million in the first half of 2001.

As a result of the increased volume generated by the leased facilities, UCPB reported that the CIIF Oil Mills posted a 921-percent increase in its income from operations in 2000 or from a net loss of P51.2 million in the previous year to P420.9 million. In the first half of 2001, it said the CIIF Oil Mills' income from operations increased by 74 percent to P557.6 million.

"These strong earnings results were achieved despite the decline in the average selling prices of the CIIF Oil Mills' products in 2000 and in the first half of 2001," UCPB said.

"It is clear from the results that the lease agreement strengthened the CIIF Oil Mills' financial performance during the period that it was in effect," it said.

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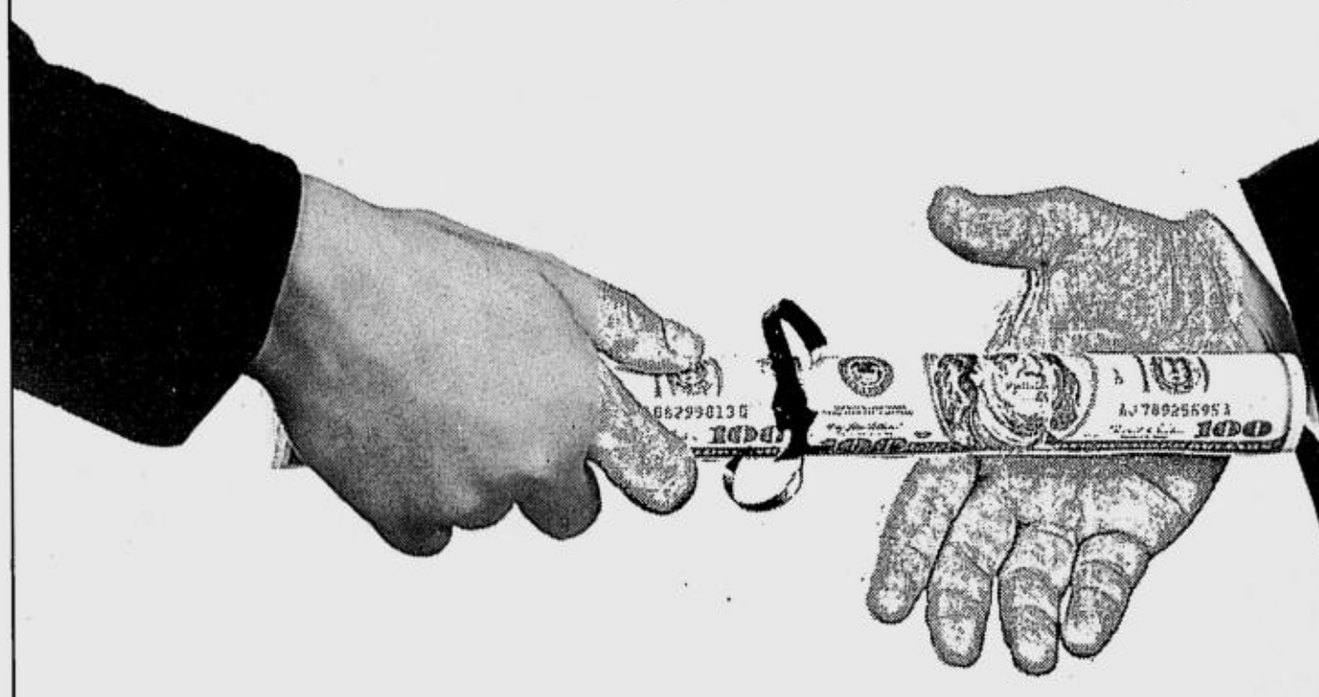

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HP chief defends merger

SAN FRANCISCO—Hewlett-Packard president and chief executive Carly Fiorina brushed aside criticism of her company's blockbuster agreement to acquire Compaq Computer and said the firm was committed to the $25-billion deal.

Critics of the mega-merger of the two high-tech firms were "looking backwards in the rear-view mirror, not forward into the future," Fiorina told the Japan Society of Northern California.

HP is committed to the acquisition of Texas-based Compaq "despite the critics and the naysayers," she said.

The deal, announced earlier this week, created a juggernaut to compete with IBM and Sun Microsystems in the corporate computing and server markets.

Servers are computers that pass data along a network, forming the crucial infrastructure of the Internet.

The new company also stands to become the world's largest maker of personal computers, ahead of Dell, and second only to IBM as a world computer services provider.

Fiorina said sometimes a corporate leader was compelled to take "controversial paths that others may not see or understand."

She said that in the ailing technology sector, "consolidation among players is inevitable" and that "one company must step forward" to lead the consolidation. *AFP*

US seen avoiding recession

WASHINGTON—The United States is likely to avoid a recession, but it is impossible to be certain, San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank chief Robert Parry said Friday.

"Are we likely to slip into a recession? Obviously, there is no way to know for sure," the city's Federal Reserve Bank president and chief executive said in a speech in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"But my best estimate at this point is that there will be a modest pickup in activity by the end of this year, with more acceptable growth rates in 2002," he told community leaders.

The US economy had shifted into a lower gear since the middle of last year, Parry said.

"In fact, though we are not technically in a recession, it certainly feels like one, with last quarter's growth rate a mere two-tenths of a percent," the senior Fed policymaker added.

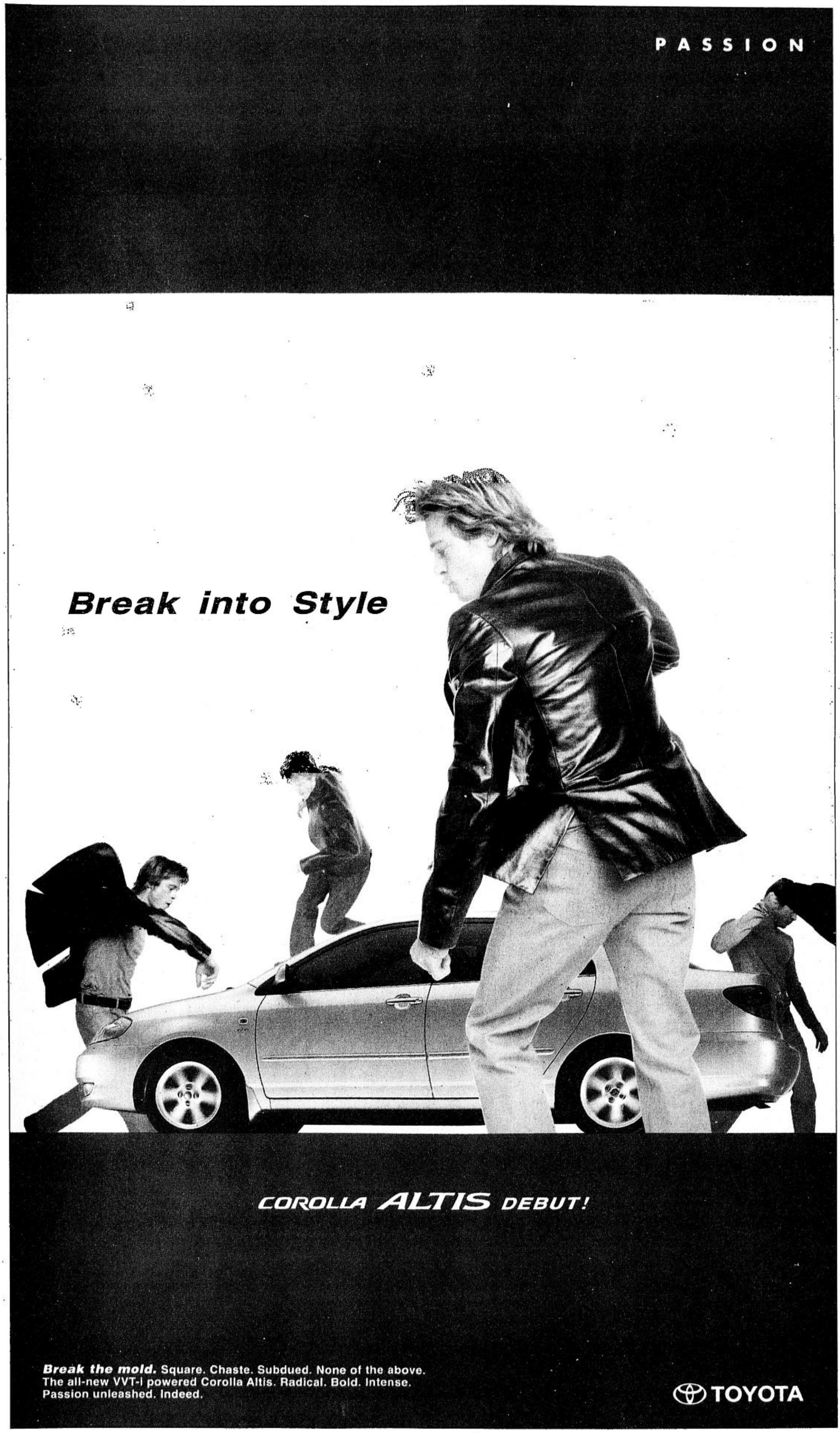
"And some sectors actually are in recession, notably manufacturing and especially high-tech manufacturing."

The Federal Reserve's policymaking Federal Open Market Committee has already cut the federal funds rate seven times this year, slashing it by three percentage points to 3.5 percent.

"And though some have expressed concern about monetary policy effectiveness this time, we are seeing signs of easing in credit markets," Parry said.

Interest-sensitive sectors, such as housing and consumer durables were holding up, he said.

Tax rebates could also add strength to the economy before the end of this year and into 2002, he added. About $40 billion in rebates are being sent to US taxpayers in a three-month period from July. *AFP*



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Don't be fooled, your ₱500 bill could be fake

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

MANY people lament the fact that there is no value to the peso nowadays, with its continued depreciation against the US dollar.

Criminal minds, however, don't agree as seen in the proliferation of fake P500 and P1,000 bills in the market, using dyed P10 bills.

It is a brilliant tactic to which the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has put its feet down, with a big stomp.

The BSP's campaign kicked off in mid-August, when BSP agents, together with the police, nabbed a counterfeiter in Quezon City whom they suspected to be part of a bigger ring whose mastermind remains at large.

The BSP said that in the sixth raid conducted this year, the authorities were able to seize bleached genuine P10 bills in the process of being converted into fake P500 and P1,000 notes as well as printing machines to produce the fakes.

The central bank started to circulate the P10 coin last month to eventually phase out the bill that the BSP had said suffers the most "wear-and-tear" because of its widespread use in wet markets and for public transport.

New tactic

The phase-out gave the syndicate a good excuse to hoard P10 bills and convert these into higher value currencies.

A central bank official from the cash department said that the syndicate had dyed the P10 bills then printed the appropriate markings to produce P500 and P1,000 bills.

A stolen car found by the Philippine National Police yielded several fake P500 and P1,000 notes and luckily led the authorities to the crime scene.

In a test buy, a BSP agent was able to buy several fake bills from the person who was later arrested. The central bank agent said he was able to buy bills at half of its actual value.

Unlike in previous counterfeit cases, the recent one made it harder for anybody to tell a genuine bill from a fake one by mere touch. This is because the syndicate had used the same notes that the BSP refers to as "security paper."

The central bank admitted that even upon a closer inspection, it was not that easy to tell the fake from the real thing. In this instance, the best way to find out is to bathe the paper and see whether the ink would smear.

Of course, that was not a very practical solution since if the bill turns out to be genuine, one has to dry it up again.

Know your bills

So the better alternative, says the BSP, is to be acquainted with your currency and the familiarization must not end with the local hero featured on the bill.

One has to hold up the bill against the light and see whether the bill has a distinct watermark of the late Sen. Benigno Aquino III on the P500 note and the three heroes Vicente Lim, Josefa Llanes Escoda and Jose Abad Santos on the P1,000 currency.

The central bank said in the fake P1,000 bill watermark, Escoda who had founded the Girl Scouts of the Philippines, seem to sport a black eye, an injustice that the BSP printing office could not have committed.

Also a security feature of the P1,000 bill is to be found on the lower left portion of the note where the numeral "1,000" is printed with an ink that changes its color, from green to blue or vice versa, when the bill is turned a certain way.

The BSP said counterfeit syndicates have difficulty when it comes to the watermark because the simulations were almost blurred. In the real notes, the lines are clear.

With the bleached P10 bill, one can still detect faint watermarks of national heroes Andres Bonifacio and Emilio Aguinaldo.

An ultra-violet light, which most of us do not have, can detect a 1,000 numeral in a glowing greenish-yellow color a bit off-center on the face of the note.

Under the special light, the serial numbers that must have a uniform size and thickness should glow while security fibers not visible to the naked eye would also be luminous.

The central bank said that anybody who finds himself holding a fake bill should immediately call the BSP at 5239806.

Anybody found using a fake bill whether wittingly or unwittingly would have to face charges for violating Article 176 of the Revised Penal Code.

The law penalizes those who manufacture and possess instruments for falsification and defacement of currency notes.

Early last month, the central bank had confiscated 197 pieces of P1,000 bills at the Manila Domestic Airport. The notes were seized from a passenger of an Air Philippines flight from Cagayan de Oro.

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Growing militancy among government employees—a cause of concern

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Romeo G. David and Cynthia V. Subijano

RECENT events in government—starting with the Palace decision to relieve Adm. Guillermo Wong as commanding officer of the Philippine Navy some months back just because some Marine officers did not like his management style, and most recently, the unceremonious dismissal of Vitaliano Nañagas for the same reason—are sending the wrong signal to employees who have gotten used to unorthodox and politicized militancy.

It has so emboldened employees that they are once more threatening a repeat in DOT Secretary Richard Gordon. The BIR, DECS, MWSS and other agencies of government have also encountered the same employee militancy.

None of these situations articulated any specifics as to what management did or did not do that was so wrong, or what violations had occurred to warrant their mass action.

The employees simply congregated and pressured the decision-makers to accede to their demands just because they had the numbers and not because they were right.

Although they knew the protocol for ventilating their grievances, at no time did these employees follow the established rules and protocol on grievance. Neither did the Civil Service Commission do its part in breach of its mandated duty to put sanity back into the situation.

If this will be the norm, then we can expect chaos and national recovery will not be achieved. This is carrying democracy too far. It fails to consider the rights and role of management in accomplishing its assigned task in the most efficient and expedient manner.

The responsibility of the employed to act responsibility and be productive to insure his or her place in the organization is no longer respected. It escapes the employees' mind that to provide employment, although important, is not the primary reason for an organization to exist.

Wrong view

The prevalent view of many employees today is that once employed, the employer is perpetually obliged to meet all the employee needs at any cost. This view is without regard to the company's capabilities to meet their needs.

There is no discerning on the part of many employees if their demands are reasonable or if the employees are still relevant or needed by the company. Many employees today do not feel a debt of gratitude to employers for their job and the opportunity to be productive.

This kind of thinking is the root of the problems that ferment conflict between management and labor in government agencies.

The method used to address the SSS employee grievance is unorthodox. It puts politics ahead of operating and economic correctness. If this is to be the new operating standard, how should a company, organized primarily to achieve economic gains for its stakeholders, insure sustainability? More often than not, what is politically expedient is not economically or operationally sound.

How should management conduct itself in this new labor/management environment? Whose interest should be served and in what order of priority? What are to be the measure of competence and performance? Who should judge/evaluate the performance of management? How do we inspire management to take initiative and serve investor interest?

While privately owned corporations have certain laws and norms to address and resolve labor/management conflict, unfortunately, government agencies, until recently, indicate the absence of sound practice to address the situation.

Until a clear policy is set, professional managers in the private sector will hesitate to join and serve government.

(This article reflects the personal views of the authors who are both members of the Management Association of the Philippines. David is chair and president of BNL Management Corp. Subijano is president of Solutions and Innovations Inc. The MAP secretariat and the authors may be reached at mapsec@globe.com.ph)

Dotcom firms need older execs

"GOOD things lie ahead for senior executives between 38 and 55 years old."

Thus declared Dr. Glendon Rowell, president of Boyden Global Executive Search Inc. (Manila), as he revealed that global demand among dotcom firms for executives above 38 years old has increased, as they look for seasoned, and well-experienced managers.

Speaking recently before members of the Rotary Club of Makati Forbes Park, Rowell said: "Experienced executives are able to give fast growing companies the direction end stability they need."

Rowell's observation is corroborated by the executive profile culled from the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), which reflects an average age of 58 years old among the country's top-level executives, particularly CEOs.

Citing recent developments "in the dotcom—or information technology—world," Rowell said, "Yahoo, one of the popular search engines today, was founded by three college students—the oldest now 31 years old and the youngest only 28. They have hired a 46-year-old executive to keep up with the demands of the business."

Rowell pointed out that the young Yahoo owners needed a seasoned manager who could develop a game plan for the company to survive and remain competitive in the long term.

He also noted that in July, corporations in the United States alone have grown rapidly. "Companies there have about 200,000 workers. That's kind of a lot," Rowell added.

DOT/ C4

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2786 Series of 2001

Eyeglass Bank: The poor man's chance to see

THE EYEGLASS Bank was recently established to provide low-cost eyeglasses to the poor who are blind in the Philippines.

Statistics show that 60 percent of our population live below the poverty line. "This means that the little money that they earn or make must be spent wisely," explains Dr. Charlie Ho, director of The Eyeglass Bank.

Health-care products are very expensive and are beyond the purchasing capacity of the poor. The government is doing everything to reduce the prices of commodities to make it affordable to Juan de la Cruz. That's why the Department of Trade and Industry imports drugs from India to make them affordable to the poor. The poor simply cannot afford the cost of spectacles. They either choose not to wear any correction glasses or take some time to save to be able to afford one.

About 30 percent of our population need spectacles to correct errors of refraction but only about 7 percent actually wear one.

"The motivation of providing low-cost spectacles to the poor is easy but you need to accompany this concept with an appropriate business model," said Ho, who is a graduate of the Masters in Entrepreneurship at the Asian Institute of Management. He was also chosen as the Outstanding Optometrist of the Year 2000 by the Professional Regulation Commission.

"The business model is very simple; we do not operate as a shop or a clinic and we do not have walk-in patients. We also buy directly from manufacturers thus eliminating the two most common causes of rising costs—rent and middleman. Affordable products are useless if these are not accessible to your target market. We identify areas where a critical mass of poor residents exists and a team of eye doctors visits them. We also have a small laboratory to control quality of

EYEGLASS/ C5

Exec finds solutions in details

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

MANAGERS and employees who are performing well at construction firm James Hardie Philippines Inc. like their president John Balass because he leaves them be to do their own thing, at their own pace.

As the 37-year-old Australian says, he is more of a hands-off kind of manager who sets objectives with the staff and then leaves them alone to meet their objectives. But once objectives are not met, he dives right in and sticks to the problem like glue.

"If they are struggling with a problem then I come in and I get more involved, especially if the problem covers different parts of the organization. I do the standard 20 questions, which means that I ask and ask what the problem is until we arrive at a solution," Balass explains.

"I find the devils in the details," Balass adds.

And details are very much a part of Balass' life.

An engineer by profession, Balass says he loves solving problems and executing a plan, and execute it fast.

This is why Balass immediately initiated steps to create a lean and mean organization when he was asked to head the Philippine operations of James Hardie in July last year.

"There were too many levels when I came in. I changed this because I felt that we can achieve the same results with a flatter organization," Balass says.

Fiber cement

James Hardie is the leader in the growing worldwide market for fiber cement building products and systems. Established in Australia in 1888, James Hardie grew rapidly, discovering and developing new ideas in the construction materials business.

James Hardie today is the world leader in fiber cement, reaching out to the rest of Asia-Pacific and North America through operations facilities in the United States, Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines.

Its flagship product is HardiFlex, which is excelelnt for wall and ceiling applications. It is best used as a lining or cladding material in timber or metal frame constructions. It is also an effective component in many building systems.

A big organization, he says, usually leads to chaos or confusion because the information gets distorted along the way.

"I always say that information is only good first hand," Balass says.

Career shift

Balass admits that he found it a little difficult at first to adjust to his new role as a general manager with responsibilities that cover the entire organization, because he has dealt mostly with finance.

After finishing his two-year postgraduate program from the Manchester Business School of the United Kingdom with distinction, he worked for Procter & Gamble in Germany as a financial analyst.

He worked with the multinational food and beverage conglomerate for a number of years, handling oral care and Pringles, before going to James Hardie in November 1998.

Balass provided financial and commercial leadership for the James Hardie group as well as business development projects. He has been to the Philippines at least four times spread over close to two years before he started working here full time.

Balass participated in making the decision for James Hardie to put up its best manufacturing facility in the Philippines in 1988.

The world-class fiber cement plant established in Cabuyao, Laguna, made James Hardie one of the biggest Australian investments in the country.

Through fiber cement technology,

BALASS
James Hardie Philippines Inc. provides durable building solutions to meet the Filipino's need for better, longer-lasting buildings and homes.

"I guess it is helpful that they knew something about me before I came in so it was not too much of a shock when I came over," Balass says.

What surprised him when he first came in was the extent of the people-related problems that were put on his table. Coming from finance, it was a change but it slowly dawned on him that handling people is really his job now as general manager.

"After my first week here, I slowly came to the realization that handling people issues was my job. I feel that I am still growing into a general manager from what was mainly a functional position that I had before," he says.

Dotcom

(From page C2)

"So many firms have gotten out of control," Rowell said, adding, "these companies do not have any plan or why they had hired the people, or what the next steps to take for those employees."

Rowell stressed. "You may have a good product or service, an excellent idea, or both, but if you don't have a strategy or a good management plan, how do you intend to grow profitably? You are going to go out of business."

"Seasoned, well-trained and experienced executives are genuinely hard to find," he said.

"There are a lot of new companies out there that have very young managers with good ideas and should survive," Rowell said. "But they need experienced managers to come in and say, 'This is the way to do it plus I'll help you make the hard decisions'," he stressed.

According to Rowell, new and modern technologies with complex operating methods should not be a threat to older executives. "All you have to do is to learn and everything will fall into place," he urged.

Directing his attention to senior company executives present. Rowell said, "I may soon come knocking on your doors, looking for seasoned executives like you to consider certain offers."

"Was that a promise or a threat?" Someone in the audience quipped.

"There aren't a lot of you!" he declared.

In 1946, Boyden was established and pioneered the executive search industry.

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Boyden is a member of the Association of Executive Search Consults Inc. (AESC), an association of retained executive search consulting firms worldwide. *(glendon.rowell@boyden.com.ph)*

Tool and die makers seek help to shape industry

BY MYRNA R. CO

IF THERE is a single industry group where the country can pin its hopes for an industrialized future, it has to be the tool, die and mold makers.

How Philippine industry would fare in open markets and free competition rests, in part, on how these entrepreneurs would grow in their capability to supply processing, assembly and manufacturing enterprises.

These enterprises rely on these industries to supply them their critical requirements in tools, molds, dies, cams, jigs, integrated circuits, sheet metals and an infinite number of other parts and components.

The sectors that tool and die makers support are legion: semi conductors, computer, electronics, electricals and electrical parts, appliance, car parts, and many others. However, their level of quality, productivity and competitiveness has lagged behind counterparts in Thailand, Korea, Malaysia and other neighboring countries.

For this reason, tool and die manufacturers in Metro Manila and Bulacan are the venue of factory diagnostics now being conducted by a team of Filipino and Japanese specialists in production technology for the purpose of providing advice and assistance in installing new and improved technologies, systems and processes.

Shouhachi Kurihara, the Japanese member of the team, will focus on specialized aspects in metal stamping and pressing. Kurihara has logged over 27 years of experience in consultancy work to nearly 2,000 stamping plants in Japan, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Gov't-industry partnership

The team is being fielded by virtue of an agreement between the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) and the Philippine Die and Mold Association (PDMA).

The DBP is forging links with priority industry sub-sectors under the technical assistance feature of the Industrial Support and Services Expansion Program, Phase II (ISSEP II), a credit facility funded by the Japan International Banking Corp. and implemented by the bank to serve the expansion needs of growth-oriented small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The die and mold association is the first industry group being assisted by DBP under the ISSEP II project.

In the months to come, the bank will be reaching out to more organized business groups to extend what is dubbed as "financing plus," i.e., credit plus a range of technical assistance, including factory diagnostics, technical advice, business matching and information services.

Even as it has conducted a research study to identify priority sectors and clients under the ISSEP II project, the DBP did not really need statistics to show that the tool, die and mold manufacturers rank at the top of the priority groups, according to DBP president Remedios Macalincag.

Not only do they meet the growth criteria that the bank has set—growth prospects, export performance, export potentials, job generation, forward and backward links, etc.—but their success will define the success of the industry sectors that depend on them for critical supplies.

Problems and prospects

The local market demand for tool, mold and die is worth over $250 million, according to the Philippine Industry Directory Online.

In the semi-conductor industry alone, the demand is estimated at P1 billion. However, the 600 plus local companies operating in the sector supply less than 10 percent of this huge demand.

The rest of the required products are imported from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Japan, the United States, China and some countries of Europe.

This translates, according to PDMA president Rene Logarta, into lost opportunities for the local tool, mold and die manufacturers, and in turn sets back the development of other manufacturing enterprises which the sub-sector supports.

"If we had a strong technical capability in tool and die, we could cater more efficiently to the requirements of the whole manufacturing sector and attract more investments into the country."

According to a study done by the Metals Industry Research and Development Center (MIRDC), the use of outdated machine tools by the tool and die makers limits production of more complex and higher precision molds and dies.

On the other hand, inadequate technical support facilities, especially for heat treatment and industrial chrome plating, deter capability to improve the service life of molds and dies. Additionally, lack of precision measuring instruments constrains the production of high precision molds and dies.

Kurihara confirms the neglected state of the tool, mold and die industry in the Philippines. The last time he visited local manufacturers was in 1990, on a Jica project.

During his recent rounds, 11 years later, he found that the level of technology being used by the local manufacturers has scarcely improved. This is not the case in Thailand, Malaysia and Korea, he says.

These countries, he explains, are able to acquire modern technology from Japan in a package that includes not only the hardware but also skilled manpower.

Industry wish list

Logarta welcomes the technical assistance being extended by the DBP ISSEP II team of production specialists.

"I am glad a government bank is taking a close look at our problems. It is different when they get a first-hand knowledge of our needs," he says.

He hopes that aside from an expert in stamping processes, others could also be fielded who can give specialist advice in semi conductors, forging, die-casting and other aspects of tool and die making.

The tool and die makers also need fiscal incentives, adds Logarta. "We cannot compete because of prohibitive taxes. We need tax incentives to get relief on our raw material and equipment imports."

Ironically, he says, these are incentives which multinationals operating in export processing zones enjoy. A bill is now pending in Congress that will respond to these needs.

The PDMA also wants to collaborate with academe and government in upgrading the curriculum and facilities of technical schools and universities so that the sector could have a good supply of trained manpower.

As it is, pirating of skilled manpower is prevalent in the industry because of skills shortage.

Holistic help

In her speech during the signing ceremonies between DBP and PDMA, Science and Technology Secretary Estrella Alabastro endorsed the ISSEP II technical assistance package for being holistic and integrated.

She said that the agreement proves that government is willing to match private sector thrust and initiatives in enterprise development and nation building.

Bulacan hosts regional agri-aqua trade fair

BULACAN will host the "Regional Agri-Aqua Trade Fair 2001" slated on Sept. 11 to 15, at the PEO Compound, Tabang, Guiguinto, Bulacan, as part of the Linggo ng Bulakan festivities being mounted by the provincial government.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor will be the guest of honor. The Agri-Aqua Trade Fair aims to thresh out issues of farmers and fisherfolk that concern agriculture and to serve as venue for different investors to meet producers/growers of high value commercial crops grown in Bulacan and other provinces.

Bulacan Gov. Josie Mendoza de la Cruz said that the trade fair will give farmers and fishermen the chance to also discuss possible investments mostly in processing and packaging.

"Hopefully, the dialogue/meeting with Secretary Montemayor, with myself and with agricultural technologists will shed light on their concerns," De la Cruz said.

A major activity of the trade fair is the mounting of the First Central Luzon Agricultural Fishery Council Congress, a two-day event that will be attended by the 77 PAFC elected officers from the six provinces of Region 3. Plans and programs of the Department of Agriculture and the NAFC programs will be discussed during the forum.

Also highlighting the Agri-Aqua Trade Fair 2001 are: (Sept. 11) Agribusiness Investment Opportunity Seminar (AIOS) for High Value Commercial Crops (HVCC); (Sept. 12, Farmers and Fisherfolk Day) a luncheon meeting with 24 municipal mayors of Bulacan; techno demo/lecture on new agricultural technologies by private corporations; (Sept. 13, Livestock Day) a Livestock Tienda where different animals from various regions will be exhibited; a dog show, meat processing demonstration, lecture on free range poultry raising of organic chicken; (Sept. 14, Fisheries Day) hook and line tilapia catching and sex identification, bangus cooking contest, a raffle of fingerlings at the BFAR booth; a lecture/demo on fish processing "value added products"; Agribusiness Investment Opportunity Seminar (AIOS) for High Value Commercial Crops (HVCC); (Sept. 15, Business Day) Regional RIC and 4H Club Achievement Day, Market Matching and Financing forum.

Speakers from Quedancor, Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (Acef) and Livelihood Enhancement to Agricultural Development (LEAD) will discuss their programs and help producers/growers tap financing institutions.

Eyeglass . . .

(From page C4)

workmanship and a pool of volunteer optometrists who provides the service because they believe in our mission.

"We are sometimes mistaken to be a service provider, which we're not. The Eyeglass Bank is more of a supplier. An entity cannot practice a profession," Ho clarified. He said he has been a veteran in free clinics for the past eight to 10 years and had learned that direct dole-outs are not effective and do not achieve the real objectives. "The mechanism itself is self-limiting because it relies solely on funds coming from donations. We have to educate recipients on how to value these goods and to take responsibility in caring for them. Charity funds are not adequate to provide everyone with free eyeglasses. The low-cost spectacle borders between functionality and fashion. And for certified indigents, we sometimes provide the eyeglasses for free."

Ho further adds that "the profit margin is very small and the risks are high. That's why the business plan should be carefully planned and projections must be realistic. Profit should be enough to sustain the project. Our success is gauged not by financial indicators but by the number of poor people whose quality of life we have improved and productivity level. We build our strength through social consciousness and moral responsibility. Helping the poor has always been my childhood dream."

Asked if this would directly compete with optical shops in the malls, Ho was quick to reply: "I think the market segment is totally different. Probably only 2-3 percent of the poor go to the malls or even to the regular optical clinics to buy their eyeglasses. Someone's got to give the poor an option so they can enjoy the quality of life they deserve. And this initiative should come from the optometrists group."

Ho, who is a two-time national president of the Integrated Philippine Association of Optometrists (Ipao) Inc., is urging more optometrists in this country who have been doing charity works for the poor to do the same. He is willing to share his expertise with optometrists and is ready to train those who wish to bring this program to their constituents.

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
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Biggest franchise show in RP

AROUND 250,000 visitors are expected to attend the forthcoming Franchise Asia 2001 in Manila this Sept. 12 to 16. It will be the biggest so far to be held in the country and in the region.

Franchise Asia 2001 chair and Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) vice chair Alegria Limjoco disclosed this optimism as she bares the four-in-one activities. These are the top level council meetings which will be attended by presidents/CEOs of the World Franchise Council (WFC) and the Asia-Pacific Franchise Confederation (APFC) at the World Trade Center.

PDI SUPPORTS FRANCHISE ASIA 2001

The Philippine Daily Inquirer announced its commitment to become the official newspaper of the forthcoming Franchise Asia 2001 which will be held on Sept. 12 to 16 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel and World Trade Center. Shown at the signing ceremonies were (from left) Bing Limjoco, overall chair, Franchise Asia 2001; Samie Lim, chair, Asia-Pacific Franchise Confederation; Celine R. Madamba, Inquirer corporate relations manager; Manuel S. Siggaoat, president, Philippine Franchise Association, and Reynaldo Concepcion, chair of PFA.

"If there's only one show you must see in Asia, it should be the Franchise Asia 2001 in Manila", Limjoco boasted. Based on the response and inquiries coming from those interested on franchise prospects and those who visit key international franchise expos have been taking place in different parts of the world every year, Limjoco is confident Franchise Asia 2001 will bring to the country its much-needed boost.

Considered the counterpart of the other regional franchise events such as the International Franchise Expo (USA), Franchise Expo Paris, the British International Franchise Exhibition (London), Franchise Asia is organized by APFC and goes to different countries every year through the bidding process. Franchise Asia will be hosted this year by the Philippines through the PFA after winning over its closest rival South Africa in the bidding in Melbourne, Australia in October last year.

Previously hosted by Malaysia and Australia, the franchise show attracted around 500,000 visitors and 500 franchisors from the United States, Canada, New Zealand, and United Kingdom, to name a few. Limjoco noted the high calibre of investors the show attracts with over 80 percent describing themselves as potential franchisees and 20 percent as potential master licensees.

Newly elected APFC chair Samie Lim added "that with the holding of Franchise Asia 2001 in the country, we will be able to prove that the Philippines is a better place to expand one's business and it can be the gateway of franchising in the region." He cited the country's strategic location, its 78 million population, high literacy and English-speaking rate, and a young population.

At the franchise expo, visitors will be treated to around 6,000 sqm of indoor exhibit offering a galore of franchise opportunities. Country pavilions have likewise been reserved for United States, Canada, Taiwan, Australia, UK/France and Malaysia.

"With the support of our members in PFA and the government agencies involved, we hope to surpass the Singapore and Malaysian events and be in the forefront of franchising in the Asean region," PFA president Manuel Siggaoat, Sr added.

Franchise Asia 2001 is being supported by WFC in the international level and by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) in the local level.

For more information about Franchise Asia 2001, call the PFA Secretariat at 638-3149/50 or WorldExco at 834-2404/891-8638 or visit www.franchiseasia2001.com/ www.philfranchise.com.

CHIKKA SIGNS UP WITH SMART'S I-CHAT

Wireless services leader Smart Communications Inc. is now offering its subscribers instant messaging service. Dubbed I-Chat, the new service allows Smart cellphone users to easily send messages back and forth to PC-based instant messaging (IM) service users anytime, anywhere in the world. Powered by the IM Chikka TXT Messenger, I-Chat is similar to the freeware service provided by traditional PC IMs such as America OnLine's Instant Messenger, Yahoo! Instant Messenger and ICQ. It allow real-time messaging not only from PC to PC, but also from PC to mobile phones and vice versa. The freeware can be downloaded by visiting www.chikka.com. Shown is (center) Anastacio Martirez, Smart personal communications and mobile services division head, shaking hands with Dennis Mendiola (center, right) of Chikka Holdings Ltd. during the mobile content signing. With them are Jerome Almirante (extreme left), Smart mobile value-added services manager and Junie Agcaoili, Chikka chief operating officer.

CAL INKS PACT WITH STATEFIELDS SCHOOL

CAL Training Center, an Informatics Group subsidiary, has entered into a 3-year contract with Statefields School in Bacoor, Cavite whereby the former will provide world-class computer education to the school's 1,800 students. Signing the agreement are CAL Bacoor managing director Albertito Kalagayan and Statefields president Felix Holifeña (third and fourth from left). Witnessing the event are (from left) CAL integrated program coordinator Cristal Quiñones, CAL Bacoor Center manager Joel Ilagan, Statefields principal Pearl Zotomayor and Statefields administrator Winkie Aligada.

BAZAAR FOR A CAUSE

The Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation (BBF) recently forged a partnership with the Philippine Daily Inquirer as the official print media partner for the Holiday shopping events, Noel-Christmas Bazaars in Manila Polo Club on Oct. 13, 14 and Dec. 15 and 16 and Christmas@2001-Shop Expo at the World Trade Center on Dec. 1 to 2. Shown (from left) are Ajie Angeles, marketing and promotions director; Hazel Soriaga, Inquirer marketing officer; Dr. Quintin Doromal, BBF executive director and Mayose Bautista, project director. These events serve as fund-raisers for the Foundation's 'Martyrs and Heroes Memorial' in Quezon Avenue which brings together with the best selection of products from hundreds of entrepreneurs. For booking and inquiries, call CUT Unlimited at 371-7398, 371-7405 or 373-3601 local 216 or e-mail eventsonly@edsamail.com.ph

Maybank hails Gloria's Malaysian state visit

MAYBANK, Malaysia's largest bank with over US$39 billion in assets, has hailed President Gloria Macapgal-Arroyo's move to make Malaysia her first overseas destination since assuming power this February.

In a recent interview with The Sun newspaper with Dato Ismail Shahudin, executive director of Maybank, he notes that President's Arroyo's three-day state visit is "a testimony of her commitment to enhance foreign and trade investments with Malaysia."

This is particularly significant given Maybank's strengthening presence in the region, with investments amounting to RM272.7 million pumped into its local subsidiary Maybank Philippines Inc. anchored on a massive computerization program.

Maybank also hopes to further enhance its proactive role in the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East Asia Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga) by announcing its intention to open a branch in Zamboanga City. This news was personally delivered to President Arroyo herself by Maybank officials led by chairman Tan Sri Mohamed Basir bin Ahmad during a visit to the country last June.

This is meant to facilitate the banking transactions mostly of traders based in the South and provide them with banking facilities and services conveniently at their reach. This will likewise complement the more than 15 existing branches of Maybank already in Sabah and boost the presence of Maybank in the Philippines, which has now more than 50 branches.

"The Philippine's economic prospects have brightened with the new administration," Ismail added. "MPI is now focusing on building its infrastructure for the long-term opportunity in the Philippines when the economy takes off."

Maybank is one of the top 20 banks in Asia and among the top 130 in the world. It was voted the best bank in Malaysia in the Euromoney 2001 Awards of Excellence. From its strong presence in Malaysia where it pioneered in banking innovations, it is now present in the major financial centers worldwide including New York, London and Singapore.

In the Philippines, it is a member of the Megalink consortium and part of the Maybank Inter-Country ATM link between Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Brunei. MPI is involved in treasury operations, with emphasis on money market operations and foreign exchange trading. It also offers trade financing, trust services, remittance services, retail banking, loans and advances and financing of projects and contracts.

AUTHENTIC JAPANESE FOOD AT THE PIER

Sanbashi, at South Road T.M. Kalaw corner Parade Street in Luneta Park, Ermita, Manila (beside Quirino Grandstand), serves dishes with spirit and a philosophy that every guest should enjoy authentic dishes at a low price. Sanbashi means Pier or 'daungan'. In Japan the fish market can easily be located at the Pier, and from there one can choose from a variety of fresh seafood items. Sanbashi serves simply good food, prepared and presented with a sense of harmony, an art that encourages the cook's imagination and creativity. Yoshio Oshima is the executive chef. Shown are the chefs amidst Sanbashi's cuisine. There are a variety of specialties to choose from, like Tokujo Ebi Tempura, Live Sashimi, Teppan Combination, Yaki Mono-Sanbashi Steak Special, Sukiyaki, Nimono and Moshimono-Kabutoni.

UST Medicine to conduct scientific lecture

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas department of medicine, faculty of medicine and surgery and hospital and medical staff association, in cooperation with Nestle Philippines Inc., will launch the Dr. Hermogenes A. Santos Memorial Forum at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila on Sept. 11.

A two-part scientific lecture titled "State-of-the-Art Enteral Nutrition" will be delivered by Dr. Noel Bautista, head of UST Hospital's Nutrition Support Team, and Dr. Jonathan Asprer, president of the Philippine Society for Parental and Enteral Nutrition.

The medical forum is being organized as part of an annual program established by the University of Santo Tomas Hospital with Nestle, its strategic partner in quality health care, to provide continuing education for its professional staff and medical students. UST Hospital is the country's premier tertiary health care institution and leading center for education and research.

Nestle has continually established partnership opportunities with medical communities by organizing scientific events and developing educational programs and publications for health professionals.

It also implements educational information activities and programs for consumers and consumer groups regarding health and nutrition, complementary to its offer of innovative products with unique nutritional properties.

Comddap Expo 2001 features Microsoft's XP

"IT'S the talk about town," said Juan G. Chua, chair of Comddap Expo 2001 Organizing Committee, referring to Microsoft's latest offering, the Windows and Office XP, Microsoft's newest desktop operating system and desktop applications suite. Both will be among the new technologies featured at this year's staging of the country's biggest information technology exhibit.

Comddap will run from Oct. 4 to 6 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel's Rizal Ballroom and is organized by the country's premier IT group, the Computer Manufacturers, Distributors and Dealers Association of the Philippines (Comddap), with support from Chase Technologies Corp.; Cityneon Phils. Inc.; Datacom Systems Corp.; Fujitsu Phils. Inc., and Siybauco and Associates Insurance Agency Inc.

Windows XP and Office XP is expected to enable users to communicate more effectively, to be more creative and productive and to have more fun with technology. among Windows XP's features are real-time voice, video and application sharing; simple digital photo and video applications; discovery, download, personalization and playback of high-quality audio and video content and others. The Office XP, on the other hand, delivers a smarter work experience by making productivity simple, enabling collaboration for everyone, and extending office beyond the desktop.

Chua also added "both Windows XP and Office XP are also seen to be important steps toward greater interconnectivity."

Comddap Expo 2001, which is themed "Basic Technology for the Future", will also feature wireless LAN applications, computers with speeds of up to 1.5 to 1.7. gigahertz, and machines for multi-media applications.

The show is open to the public starting Oct. 5.

HYATT REGENCY NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hyatt Regency Manila general manager David Pacey (fourth from left) presents his new executive committee comprising the hotel's division heads (from left) Juancho Baltazar, director of human resources; Rolando Villalon, controller; Carmela Bocanegra, director of business development; Vince Regis, director of rooms; Ramon Perez, director of engineering; Hermann Grossbichler, executive chef; and Abel Nolasco, executive assistant manager, food and beverage.

OMEGA AT BRIDAL SHOW

Omega, the timepeace of the rich and famous, was one of the major sponsors in the recent Bridal Inspirations 2001 – a three-day gallery display of wedding gown designs by some of today's top fashion designers. Organized by the Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines, the highlight of the event was a glittering gala presentation that showcased style and elegance for a perfect wedding. Shown is fashion icon Frederick Peralta (second from left) flanked by head-turning models.

Number of insurance players drop, but sales are up

BY REYNALDO A. DE DIOS

DESPITE severe political and economic challenges, last year was generally a good one for the insurance industry.

In the life sector, premium income (including renewals) reached P25.56 billion, 14 percent more than the premium last year, according to the Philippine Life Insurance Association (PLIA). Likewise, first year premiums or new business reached P6.09 billion, a 16.6 percent more compared to the previous year.

This performance can be considered as more than satisfactory in the light of the current economic slowdown and the prevailing political risk factors.

Total insured assets passed the P1 trillion mark at P1.016 trillion, admitted assets climbed to P144.62 billion while cash and investment assets improved to P137.78 billion. Legal reserves of the life industry rose to P67 billion while net worth increased to P50.55 billion.

Licensed insurance agents grew from 26,639 in 1999 to 29,223 in 2000, due to the industry's intensive recruiting campaign. However, the number of employees declined from 7,070 in 1999 to 6,862 last year.

Some in, others out

The industry shrunk slightly when ING Life absorbed Aetna Life and Prudential Life of the UK acquired All State Life. Mapfre Asian, a composite insurer, stopped its life operations while Urbancorp Life ceased operations following the closure of Urban Bank. GE Life also pulled out when it sold out to ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc.

Others, however, came in to take the place of the other players. New York Life and Metlife started its operations focusing on the sales of universal life policies and Aegon Life is set to follow.

The distribution channels of life insurance remains agency dominated although the concept of bancassurance is fast gaining strength with BPI, Metrobank and Cocobank taking concrete steps to make it an integral part of its operations.

When Solidbank was bought by Metrobank, John Hancock Life lost its partner in bancassurance, but it is in the thick of negotiations to forge similar strategic alliances with several commercial banks.

Equitable Bank's purchase of PCI Bank affected PCIB Cigna Life as its premium income fell by 27.19 percent last year, but it is expected that the new management will eventually optimize its enlarged network of branches to regain its momentum.

The top four life companies (three foreign and one domestic) produced P18.48 billion, representing 72.47 percent of the total premium volume last year.

Top players

The top three foreign life insurers accounted for 55.44 percent while the top Filipino insurer got 17.03 percent of the market. The remaining 38 firms had to fight for a slice of the remaining 37.53 percent of the market.

Foreign players are expected to further increase their share of the market over the next five years because of their new and competitive products, combined with aggressive marketing techniques.

The entry of call centers, direct mail and Internet selling will have minimal effect at least for the next few years.

The tax issues preventing the further development of the life sector are beginning to receive a sympathetic ear from the finance department. Steps are underway to remove the 5-percent premium tax and the documentary stamps tax.

The life sector though its association (PLIA) is also vigorously exerting efforts to have its insurance products be considered as retirement plans for tax purposes.

This would mean that the reserve funds of the life insurance industry would no longer be subject to taxes as the industry players would be considered "trustees" similar to the status enjoyed by banks, mutual funds and other financial institutions.

Non-life sector

Preliminary figures from the Insurance Commission show that the non-life sector wrote P23.45 billion in gross premiums last year, a 27.24-percent increase compared with P18.43 billion in 1999.

The increase is impressive considering that it was a turnaround from a 1.86-percent decline in 1998.

Premiums earned by this sector, however, surprisingly declined by 3.06 percent to P10.99 billion in 2000 as against the P11.337 billion in 1999. This may be attributed to increased share of the foreign reinsurance players.

The top five insurers accounted for P7.059 billion or 30.1 percent of the total market while the top 15 companies wrote P13.122 billion or 55.95 percent, leaving the balance of 44.05 percent to 99 insurers and four professional reinsurers.

In earned premiums, the top five insurers produced P3.314 billion or 14.13 percent, which is much less than the 30.1 percent it wrote in gross premiums. This shows that these companies wrote a majority of the large corporate risks in property, aviation and marine hull that require substantial reinsurance protection with international reinsurers.

No recovery in sight?

Last year may have been a good year for the insurance industry but it is not yet time to bring out the champagne.

The slowdown in construction activity, lower output growth of local industries and the reduction in motor vehicle sales aggravated by the present downturn in the economy and other unfavorable risk factors present a somewhat discouraging scenario for the next few years.

Actually, this is an overcrowded sector as there are 114 non-life insurers in the marketplace and a majority of these insurers are family-owned corporations that are inadequately capitalized and have weak professional management expertise.

As a matter of fact, a number of domestic insurers are up for sale but their asking prices and possible hidden liabilities have not had an encouraging response from interested buyers.

The distribution channels of the non-life sector are dominated by brokers and agents, the latter concentrating on small and medium accounts including personal lines while the brokers have the upper hand in getting the large accounts.

To eliminate the proliferation of fake certificates of cover for the compulsory third party liability insurance policies and the non-remittance of correct taxes to the government, the Land Transportation Office, the Insurance Commission and the Insurance and Surety Association of the Philippines (Isap) want to form a consortium of all licensed insurance companies to underwrite this risk.

While the objectives of this pool are laudable, some Isap members are concerned over the ability of a computer company chosen by the LTO to effectively manage the pool and whether the level of the proposed management fee is commensurate with the scope and amount of work involved to successfully undertake and manage this project.

As of the writing of this paper, the implementation of this proposal was still under deliberation and consideration by Isap member-companies.

There is an existing personal accident scheme to protect the passengers of bus operators nationwide handled by two pools, Personal Accident Management Inc. (Pami) and Personal Accident Insurance Co., (Paic).

The objective of this scheme is to increase the insurance cover to protect the riding public, from the prevailing rate of only P50,000 per bus accident for all passengers which is most unfair and unrealistic. *(The author is a risk and insurance management consultant.)*

N. Luzon . . .

(From page C8)

terms of technology and marketing.

"They should not try to outdo one another in pricing and marketing. By uniting themselves, they would become stronger and they can even demand financial and technological assistance from the government to improve their production and marketing," he explained.

As an example, Romero cited the mangoes in Pampanga, Tarlac, and Zambales, which are considered as among the best in the world.

He said that if mango producers from the three provinces would only have common production technology and marketing schemes, their product would succeed in the global market.

Romero said that furniture products being manufactured in Central Luzon and Ilocos-Pangasinan Region also have potential success in the global market. "All the furniture manufacturers need to do is unite themselves and seek support from the government."

Economic zones

He said that the North Philippines has an edge over other areas because it has the biggest economic zones in the country. Among these are the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga, Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales, Bataan Export Processing Zone in Bataan, Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone in La Union, John Hay in Baguio City, and Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac.

Romero said that what serve as the main obstacle to realize the forming of North Philippines is the persistent parochial mentality of many businessmen in Central Luzon, Cordillera Autonomous Region, Ilocos-Pangaisnan Region, and Cagayan Valley.

"It's a bit hard to convince them, especially because many still refuse to realize how globalization would affect them," he said.

He also cited the political factor as another reason why the four northern regions fail to achieve the economic successes of other areas in the country. "Our leaders must also have economic visions, not just political. We need to have leaders like those of Cebu, Davao, or Iloilo who have foresight and ability in investment and marketing."

Romero also stressed that business and tourism go hand in hand. He said that most businessmen abroad and locally become tourists first before they become investors. "They usually take a look at a place first and when they see business opportunity, they grab it."

He said that a strongly organized North Philippines should have taken advantage of tourism at the height of the Abu Sayyaf crisis in Mindanao and Visayas. He said that there are many tourist spots in the North Philippines, like the Pagudpod in Ilocos that is comparable with Boracay, which can serve as alternate destinations for foreign tourists with proper promotional campaigns.

"We are working to achieve all these. Last month we held the North Philippines Business Forum and the Tourism Forum at Clark Field. It seems hard because of parochial mentality but the business community north of Manila would soon unite themselves to form the North Philippines. We need to do this to prepare for the challenge of globalization," he said.

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N. Luzon responds to globalization

BY JUN MALIG
PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE MANGOES, grains, tocino and longganisa, and furniture of Central Luzon; the vegetables, flowers, delicacies, and handicrafts of the Cordillera Autonomous Region; the marine products of Ilocos-Pangasinan Region and the fruits and livestock of Cagayan Valley.

Altogether, the four regions and their renowned products will comprise what would be known as the North Philippines—an area that would soon become a single economy to cope with globalization.

This is the vision of the business community north of Manila up to Batanes, according to Renato Romero, an Angeles City-based businessman and current vice president for North Luzon of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the country's largest business organization.

Romero stressed that the only way for the four northern regions' economy to survive globalization or the impending implementation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and World Trade Organization policies is to integrate themselves into one single economy.

Through integration, he said, the regions would no longer compete but compliment one another's products and resources.

Joint marketing

"The products of the four regions make a good combination. They compliment one another. Mangoes and furniture from the North Philippines, for example, could be products that could compete in the global market. All we have to do is improve production and marketing and do away with parochial attitude," he said.

Romero said that the PCCI and provincial and city chambers of commerce and industries, in cooperation with the Office of the President's Regional Development Executive System for North Luzon, have earlier organized the North Philippines Business Council and the North Philippines Tourism Council.

The two councils would serve as bodies that would coordinate the trade and investment and tourism promotion in the North Philippines.

Last year Romero also worked with former Presidential Adviser for North Luzon Junie Cua, now a congressman in Nueva Vizcaya, to form the Central East Asia Growth Circle Program. The program will promote people-to-people economic cooperation between the North Philippines, the Southern Prefectures of Japan, South Korea, Southern provinces of China, Macau and Hong Kong.

ROMERO sees good prospects in north Luzon

A separate program was also drafted between the North Philippines and Taiwan.

However, the political upheavals early this year affected the full implementation of the two economic programs that were envisioned to achieve micro-linkages on the level of businessmen of the participating countries for developing expanded markets, induce investment flows, promote technology transfers, and increase tourist arrivals.

Economic alliances

Romero said that economic growth alliances are the only responses to the challenge of globalization.

"There are, for instance, Singapore, Johore, Malaysia; Riau-Indonesia Growth Triangle, Pearl River Delta Triangle, and Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle. If we do not consolidate ourselves into North Philippines; if we do not form economic alliances with territories of our neighboring countries, we will not be able to survive globalization," he said.

By integrating the four regions into a single economy, Romero said that every businessman of the North Philippines would help one another. "If a businessman from Cagayan would go to Taiwan, he would also sell my business. If I go to Hong Kong, I would also sell his business."

To cope with globalization, he said that businessmen in the four regions who produce or manufacture the same products would have to unite themselves in

N. LUZON/ C7

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LIFESTYLE

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Arts & Design

'Il Trovatore' returns to Manila after five decades

BY PABLO A. TARIMAN

FRIDAY this week, the Philippine Philharmonic will have an unusual season opening, a full-length "Il Trovatore" featuring both European and Oriental singers (among them two Filipinos, Rachelle Gerodias as Inez and Lemuel de la Cruz, as Ruiz) in partnership with the Opera Guild of the Philippines under Imelda Cojuangco and Fides Cuyugan Asensio, and the Lyric Opera of Singapore under the direction of Leow Siak Fah, a Singapore national who also sings.

In last week's presscon, Cojuangco admitted opera is one of the most bewitching of the arts but also

IL/ p.D5

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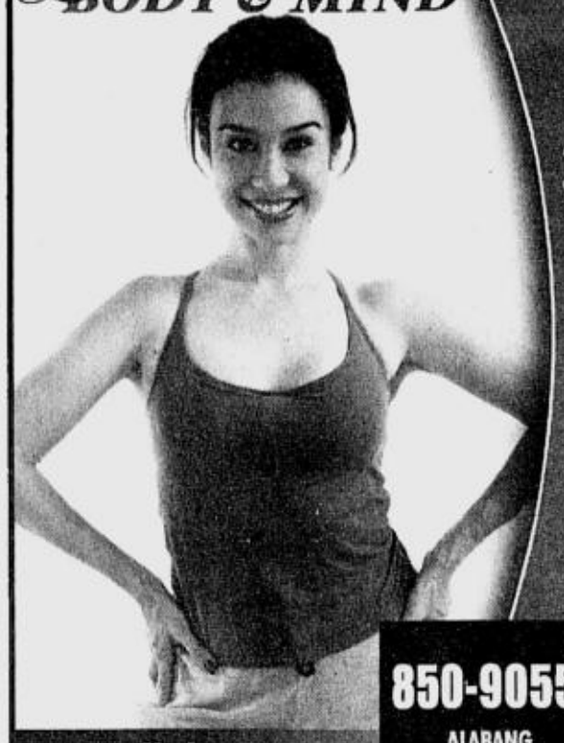

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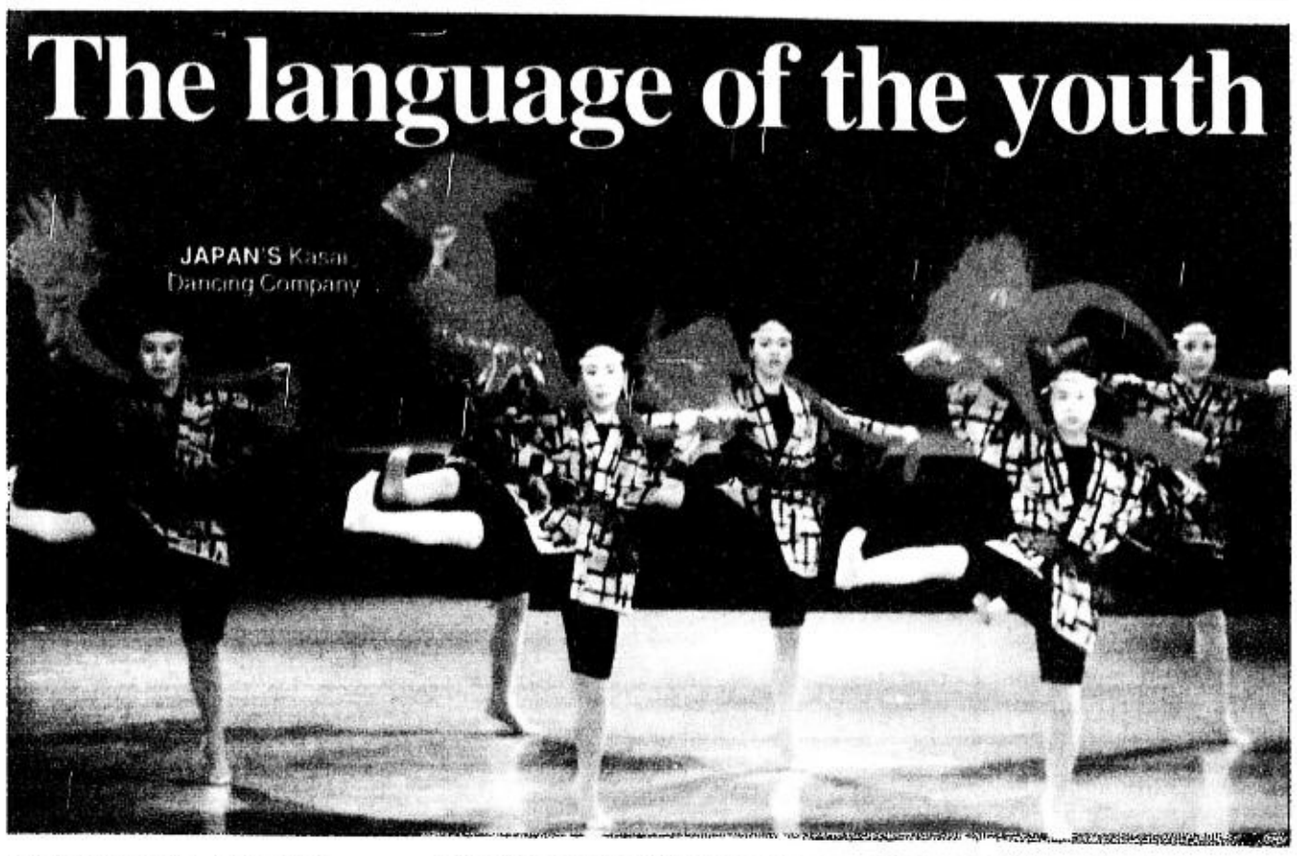
The language of the youth



BY ROWENA C. BURGOS

ON SEPT. 15-25, the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA) will host Anak-Anak Asia: Asian Children's Arts Festival (Acaf). Through the festival's fora and other activities, artists and audiences will not only witness but also partake of the art forms and the varying expertise that each artist has to offer.

The workshops, conferences, performances, rituals, exhibits of artworks and published literary works, craft and culinary fairs and outreach activities offer a cross-cultural experience that will open the eyes, hearts and minds of the participating arts groups from Asian countries.

Participating groups include Chongqing Acrobatic Troupe of China, Sarotama Art Workshop of Indonesia, Seoul Traditional Art High School, Kasai Dancing Company of Japan, Barasoain Kalinangan Foundation Inc., Helobung School of Living Traditions, Mindanao Alternative Center for the Visual Arts, the Philippine Women's College of Davao, the Philippine High School for the Arts-Dulaang Sipat Lawin, New Voice Company, Sining Kumintang ng Batangas, Teatro Sambisig Inc., Teatrong Mulat ng Pilipinas, Lahing Kayumanggi Dance Ensemble of Laguna and Ateneo Children's Theater.

"The festival offers something that all of us, from the artistic and cultural community, should learn from. It gives us a good paradigm on how a developmental approach to project conceptualization and design could elevate the standard and impact of art festivals that we normally organize. By doing so, we didn't perhaps develop more artists who are responsible and sensitive to the realities of our time," says Nestor Jardin, president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

According to Fernando Josef, PHSA executive director and Acaf director, Anak-Anak Asia bids to organize Asian artist-leaders aged 6 to 18 years old into an active force that will pursue artistic and cultural activities geared toward the development of an environment-friendly, prosperous, peaceful and humane society; showcase productions that will highlight the diversity and richness of Asian children's artistry and craftsmanship; and host a forum that will facilitate the recognition of the participants' cultural uniqueness and the encouragement of the use of art as therapy for survivors of child abuse.

CHONGQING Acrobatic Art Troupe of China

Anak-Anak Asia gathers young artist-leaders of the Asian region who will showcase productions that will highlight their craftsmanship

Activities

A series of performances will be held at the National Arts Center, Mt. Makiling, Laguna, Marikina Riverbank Center and the Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong. Through an integrated arts conference and workshop at the PHSA campus in Mt. Makiling, the participants will discover each other's culture, share each other's art perspectives and create artistic expressions. There will also be a consultation on the official formation of the Association of Young Artists, an Asian children-artists movement that will carry on the artistic and organizational aspirations of the Asian youth.

"We know that we're young and people see our acting, singing and dancing as play. But this is how we see our world. Through Anak-Anak Asia, we hope to show the world that arts is an important part of man and that we've made our part to make this world a better place to live," says Michael Joseph Santos, a 15-year-old student of PHSA.

Anak-Anak Asia opens at 7 p.m. on Sept. 15 at the Shangri-La Plaza Cinema 1 with a gala performance of "Hatol ng Guhit na Bilog" by PHSA's Dulaang Sipat Lawin.

Teatrong Mulat ng Pilipinas takes the spotlight at the mall's Cinema 1 on Sept. 16 as it presents "Papet Kalikasan."

On Sept. 17, Acaf at the Shang promotes the T'bolis' rich culture in a rare Manila performance entitled "The Orphan" by the Helobung School for the Living Traditions at the 3/L lobby. On the same day, a special presentation by the Sining Kumintang ng Batangas is set at the Grand Atrium.

At Stageworx, Barasoain Kalinangan Foundation Inc. will restage "Lola Kikay," a musical on the life of National Artist for Dance Francisca Reyes Aquino, on Sept. 18. On the other hand, Teatro Sambisig Incorporated will stage Onofre Pagsanghan's "Sa Kaharian ng Araw" on Sept. 21.

The Mindanao Alternative Center for Visual Arts will exhibit their murals at the Galeria of the Sentrong Pangkultura ng Marikina on Sept. 19-22, together with the Philippine Women's College-Anak Apo Mindabaw's literary and art works.

The Ateneo Children's Theater will feature excerpts from the musical "The Wizard of Oz."

Witness the spectacular performance of the Chongqing Acrobatic Art Troupe of China on Sept. 16 and 18 at the Grand Atrium. Get to know more about Korea as Seoul Traditional Art High School performs a traditional musical drama at the Cinema 1 on Sept. 19. Indonesia's Sarotama Art Workshop will treat audiences to a Javanese art experience of shadow play, puppetry, gamelan orchestra and traditional dance on Sept. 21 and 22 at the Grand Atrium.

Anak-Anak Asia will expose Filipinos to different cultures of the world but festival organizers also hope that it will lead to a deeper understanding of our own culture.

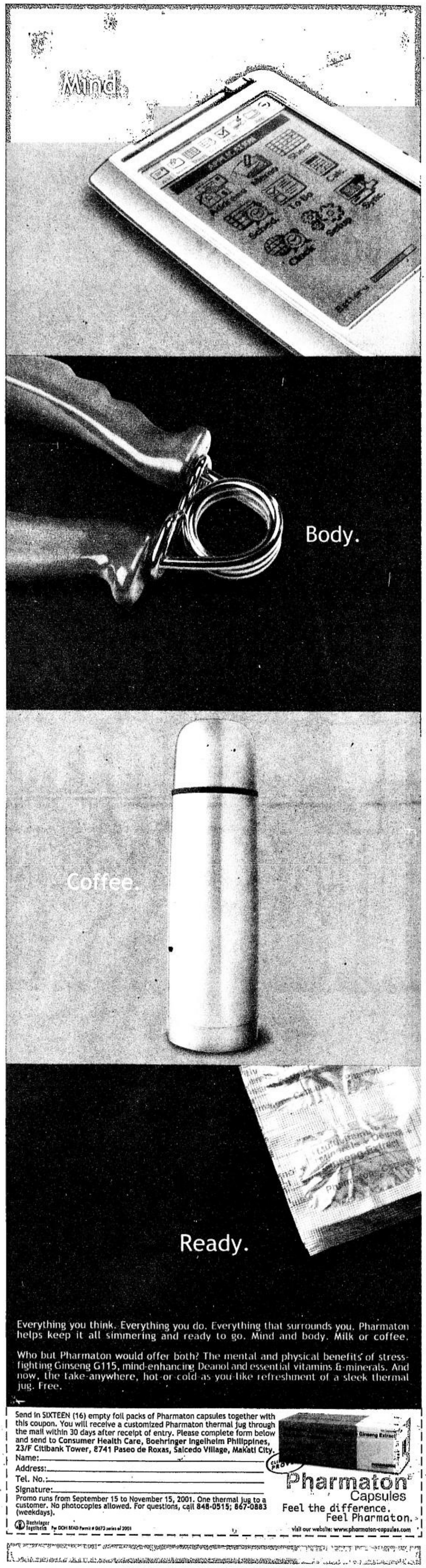
"Arts and culture should be treated as essential to national development. It should go deeper than the common misconception that they're merely forms of entertainment and therefore marginal to our lives. To the project organizers and all those who have helped through financial, logistical or moral support, your investments are well placed. The returns would manifest in a kind of Asian leaders and artists we'll have in the years to come," Jardin says.

Call the PHSA Manila office at 832-3665; Makiling office, (049)536-5973; or e-mail phsafatfcj@pacific.net.ph

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

SERIES OF SHOWS FOR OWWA CHORALE

The Overseas Workers Welfare Association Chorale proved their mettle in choral singing when they delivered another bravura performance recently at the National Press Club. They did a soulful rendition of the 19th century version of "The Lord's Prayer," Jamie Rivera's "Heal Our Land" and Donna Summer's "The Power of One." The choice will do a series of performances this month: Sept. 28 at the 101st anniversary of the Philippine Civil Service tribute to government workers at the Irwin Theater of Ateneo de Manila University; Sept. 30 at the National Seafarer's Day at the Quirino Grandstand; and Dec. 1 at the launch of "Pamaskong Handog sa OFWs" at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA); and Dec. 16 at the first major concert at Nayong Pilipino.



Lyceum of Aparri to build a church dedicated to San Lorenzo Ruiz

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FR. Joel Reyes, executive vice president of the Lyceum of Aparri in Cagayan, is making a novena to San Lorenzo Ruiz, the first Filipino saint. He is asking for the saint's intercession to help him build the church.

Lyceum of Aparri is one of the three Catholic colleges in Northern Luzon and has an enrolment of 2,000 students in elementary, high school and college and graduate school. The school was founded 33 years ago with the help of the family of Tuguegarao Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan, who is its president.

The campus also houses the St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary, which has 35 seminarians studying philosophy. With a church, the students, faculty and people from neighboring towns would be served spiritually.

Legend reveals that Lorenzo Ruiz passed by the shores of Cagayan on his way to Japan. Winds carried the boat where he was traveling, to Lal-lo, which is 30 minutes away from Aparri.

Besides, says Father Joel, San Lorenzo is the first Filipino saint and the community wants to honor him by dedicating this church to him.

Architect Ramon Lopez, assistant dean of Manuel L. Quezon University, offered his services for free, while engineer Dindo Pascual is helping Father Joel gratis et amore.

Lyceum of Aparri, however, needs financial help. Father Joel says: "It will be a lasting legacy, a source of honor and great pride for you and your family to help Lyceum realize its dream of building San Lorenzo Ruiz Church. The saint will reciprocate your kindness immeasurably with good health, long life and happiness."

Please write Fr. Joel Reyes at Lyceum of Aparri, Aparri, Cagayan or call him at (078) 888-2075 or (0917) 609-3475. You can also write to Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan at the Archbishop's Residence, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan.

Discounted opera tickets

STUDENTS can attend Verdi's opera, "Il Trovatore" at half the price when it is staged at the CCP Main Theater on Sept. 14 and 15. "Il Trovatore," which means "The Troubadour," is produced by the Opera Guild Foundation of the Philippines, with the Singapore Lyric Opera, NCCA and Cultural Center of the Philippines. The CCP is allowing the use of the stage free of charge, according to CCP president Nestor Jardin, who is committed to bringing opera to the public at inexpensive prices.

An opera is one of the most expensive performing art forms, usually demanding P5-6 million to mount, says Imelda Cojuangco, chair of the Opera Guild. But the foundation continues to support opera, so our talented tenors and sopranos can perform not only here, but also abroad.

Fides Cuyugan Asencio, who took over Dalisay Aldaba as artistic director, is confident that we will able to join the Asean umbrella of performers, which is being organized by Leow Siak Fah of Singapore who is directing the opera here.

This is good news because it will give work to our own Filipino singers. By the way, there are 35 Filipino singers in the 45-man chorus. Filipina soprano Rachelle Gerodias plays Inez, while Lemuel de la Cruz (tenor) is Ruiz in this beautiful tale of love, passion and revenge. Salvador Bernal is doing the sets and costumes. For tickets, please call the CCP marketing dept. at 832-3878.

Caceres archdiocese ends Golden Jubilee

THE ARCHDIOCESE of Nueva Caceres will formally end the Golden Jubilee Year with a Pontifical Mass at the Quadricentennial Arch of the Metropolitan Cathedral in Naga on Sept. 13 at 4 p.m. Apostolic Nuncio Antonio Franco will officiate.

This will be the highlight of the celebration of the fiesta of Our Lady of Peñafrancia whose feast day draws devotees from all over the country. The grand fluvial procession takes place on Sept. 15 at 4 p.m. from the Naga Cathedral to the Basilica de Minore de Peñafrancia.

The actual fiesta, which falls on Sept. 16, will be blessed with Pontifical Concelebrated Masses at the Basilica: 8 a.m., with Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi as main celebrant; and 10 a.m., Diocese of Legazpi, with Bishop Lucilo Quiambao as main celebrant. The Chinese-Filipino community will attend Mass at 6 p.m. Bishop Manolo de los Santos will celebrate the Mass.

LYCEUM/ p.D7

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SHS Tagaytay	- Sept. 23	(046)413-0848
SHS Dela Rosa	- Sept. 28	810-8997
SHS Forbes	- Sept. 29	840-2632
SHS-CAC Goodwill	- Sept. 30	813-4956 / 893-9079
SHS Malabon	- Oct. 6	362-3154

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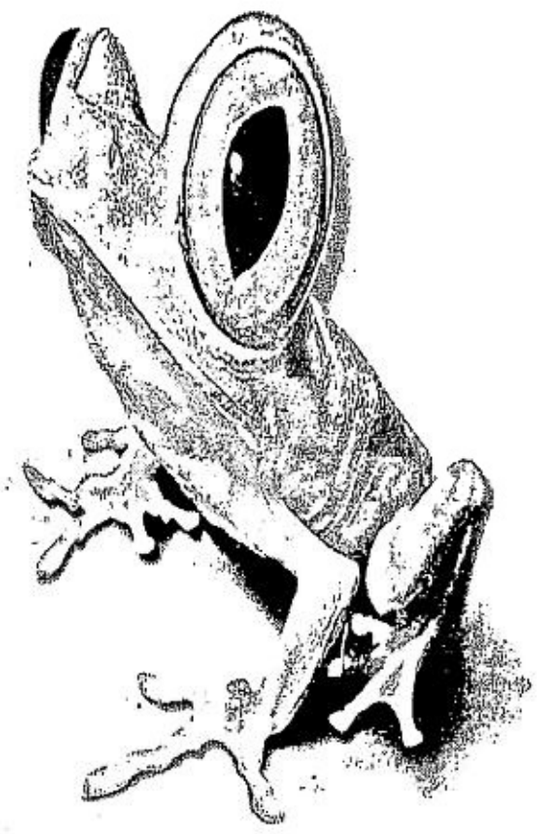

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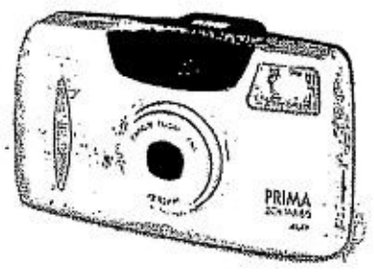

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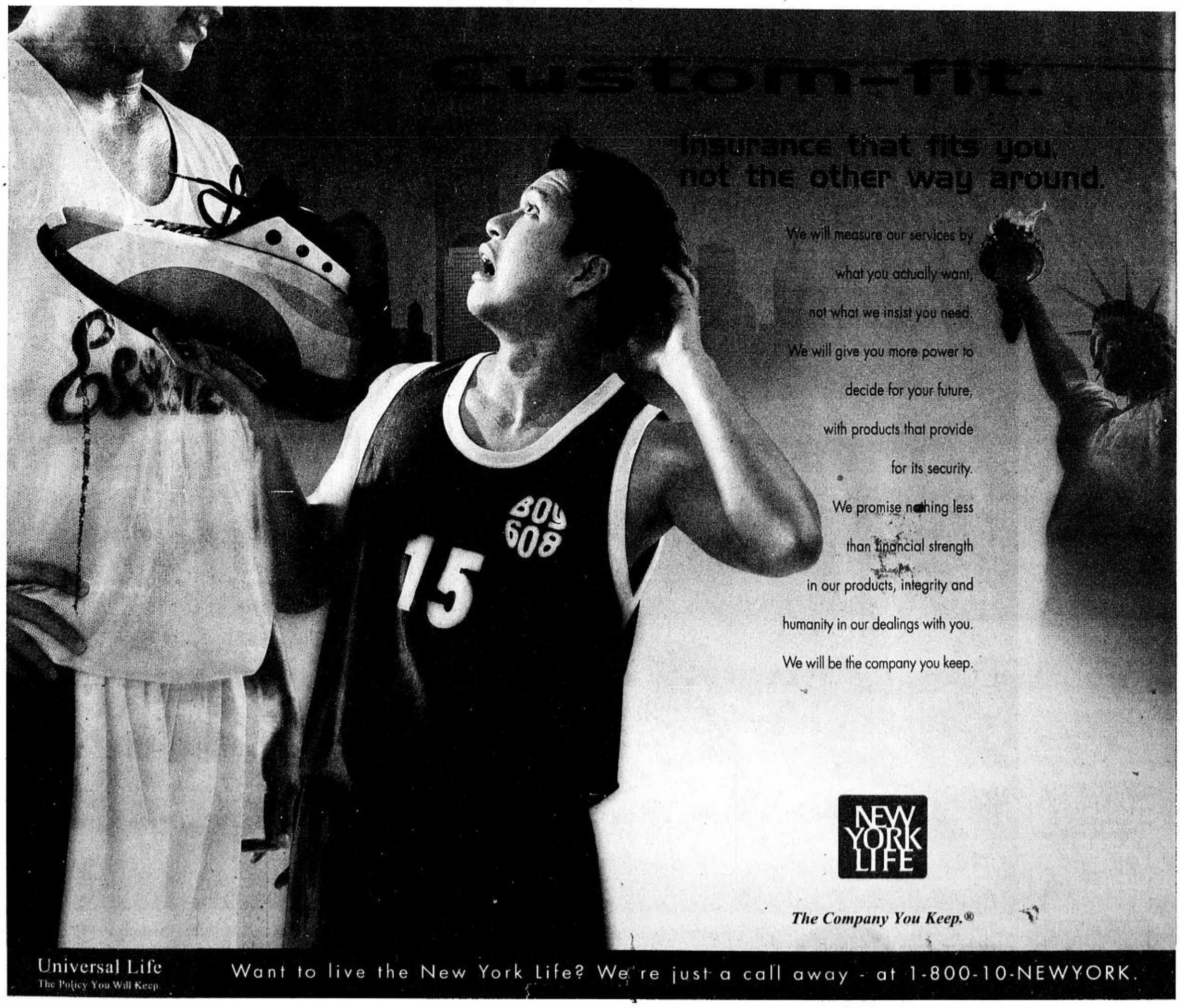


Translating 'Vagina' into the vernacular

Three Filipina writers make the cross-cultural adventure to bring to Filipinos Eve Ensler's play in their own language

BY CORA LLAMAS

"THE VAGINA Monologues" in Filipino translators Glecy Atienza, Luna Sicat and Joi Barrios

WHY tamper with success? Especially with a play like "The Vagina Monologues (TVM)"? The New Voice Company's (NVC) production of the award-winning Eve Ensler play took the theater community by storm early last year, with word of mouth alone provoking people to look for tickets long before the publicity mill put out the first releases.

The initial five-show run became an instant hit, and started a tour of the various regions in the Philippines and in Asian countries like Hong Kong and Singapore. To date, the performances have reached more than 50.

More than the critical and commercial acclaim, though, "TVM" brought an increased awareness among the female (and male) watchers of the value of womanhood. Disproving initial protests that it was a sexually provocative play meant only to titillate, "TVM" has proved how women from all walks of life have suffered, courageously liberated themselves from oppression, and realized the intrinsic, indispensable connection of their sexuality with their personhood.

Universal message

Its universal, important message has to be heard. Hence, the restaging of "The Vagina Monologues in Filipino."

"The translation makes the play accessible to larger audiences," explains Joi Barrios, one of the three translators. "[This production] will go on tour and hopes to reach out to women who are peasants, workers, urban poor and migrants. Moreover, watching the play in our national language allows us to understand it not only with our minds but also with our hearts."

Barrios gives one common, everyday example, "When we are in pain, we say '*Aray*!,' not 'Ouch!' When we curse and are cursed, [we feel the] biggest insult when the curse is in Tagalog, not English or Spanish."

The sensitivity and relevance of the material motivated NVC artistic director Monique Wilson to pick proven, playwrights-cum-poets-cum-authors who've brought home trophies from the Palanca and the CCP Literary Awards. Barrios ("Mail Order Bride," "Damas de Noche") is teaching at the Osaka University of Foreign Studies. UP-based Glecy Atienza ("Ang Sundalong Hambog," "Lutong Bahay") holds a doctor of philosophy in Filipino literature and chairs Alyansa Inc., an alliance of 34 multicultural groups. Luna Sicat ("Maternal," "Babae") holds a master of arts in literature from UP and is the adviser of Ugat, an organization of Creative Writing students.

All three had their work cut out for them. Rito Asilo, veteran actor and NVC associate artistic director, describes the main challenge: "The translation should not negate the issues spoken about in the play. If this were a work of fiction, an adaptation would have been easy to justify. But these [monologues] are true stories of real women [and their] experiences. An adaptation [might] affect the integrity of the play and dilute the authentic flavor of these stories. Besides, Eve herself cautioned us to be careful with the treatment in these translations because most of these women have become quite close to her."

Battle-scarred

The translators, battle-scarred warriors in the fight for women's causes, soon found other grounds to explore and issues to confront. Like Ensler before them, one of the first points of struggle was the main word itself.

Sicat admits, "*Hirap akong sabihin noon kung anong pangalan* [ng vagina]. *Sa kultura natin, mas kumportable kasi na hindi na lang tukuyin 'yon. Tinatawag natin 'yung puke bilang 'ano.' Natuklasan ko rin sa dula na may potensyal talaga ito na iangat 'yung liberasyon mo hindi lang bilang isang babae, kundi bilang isang lalaki, bakla o lesbyana.*

"*Sa kultura natin, kung nagmumura tayo o gusto nating barahin ang isang tao, ang pinakasimpleng paraan para gawin 'yon ay sabihin mong 'puke mo' o 'puke ka ng ina mo.' Pero wala namang masama sa* [*salitang puke*]; *nagiging masama lamang dahil sa intensiyon—at 'yung intensiyong iyon, ang iparamdam sa babae na isa lamang siyang 'puke.'*"

While the Tagalog equivalent of vagina has normally been equated with profanity, Ensler's treatment of it is respectful, even revealing. One of the lines that moved Sicat says, "*Kung ano ang kaya ng puso, kaya rin iyon ng puwerta* (the poetic treatment of '*puke*')."

Another challenge lay in translating some of the words and monologues into situations and terms that Filipinos of today can easily understand, without losing the spirit and poetry of the original Ensler material. The translation now incorporates the experiences of Pinays from the barrios and the boondocks, and not just those of the urban yuppies in Metro Manila, although there are plenty of those as well.

Obviously, the playwrights did a lot of research—with many eager hands willing to help once they found out what the project was about. One pastor in Antique even went so far as to volunteer the different terminologies of vagina from his region, as these were passed down through the generations.

One thing soon became clear, though. The Pinay ladies were also suffering from the same struggle as Ensler's US- and Europe-based subjects, an oppression springing from a false concept or repression of the vagina and what it truly represents.

"Cross-cultural *pa lang talaga ang* repression *ng pagkatao ng babae dahil sa mga salaysaying kaugnay ng puke*," Atienza remembers. "*Habang nagsasalin, nararamdaman ko ang mga* cultural undertones and differences *ng mga kuwento. Dahil sa galing sa ibang* cultural milieu *ang mga kuwento pero napatitingkad rin nito* (resonance) *ang mga karanasang lokal ng mga babae rito sa 'Pinas.*"

Transposition

In the translation, some of the more contemporary, easily recognizable foreign names, locations, objects and settings had to be Filipinized for greater relevance and impact. Pennies and cents became "*tigbi-beinte singko at mamera*" and a vacation in "Cape Cod" was transplanted to "Boracay."

Atienza elaborates, "*Hangga't maaari*, we tried to keep close to the original text. *Pero 'yung mga* names *ng lugar at pangalan ng tao, kailangan talagang ilagay sa* local context *para maka*-relate *naman ang mga manonood. 'Yung* terms pertaining to the vagina, *kailangan talagang ibahin kasi* common terms *ito. 'Yung* portion *ukol sa* Bosnia, *nang isalin ni* Joi, *nilagyan niya ng* intro *para ma-i*-relate *sa* experience *ng* militarized women *sa* war-torn areas *ng* Mindanao *at* Philippine countryside *ang* Bosnian experience. *Pero sa pangkalahatan, talagang sinikap naming panatiliin ang orihinal.*"

Of course, the most obvious question, why not translate the title itself?

The playwrights would have changed it to "Usapang Puke." But, ultimately, the call had to be made by the theater company.

"It would have generated more hype and interest had we decided on 'Usapang Puke' or 'Usapang Pekpek,' " concurs Asilo. "But we want people to focus more on the play than the controversial title. And for them to realize that 'TVM' is about women's issues that don't get talked about, the equality of the sexes, the wrongness of rape and incest, and all that. If we wanted to be controversial, the title would not have been [what it is now]."

Like it or not, the play will always remain controversial, precisely because of the issues it raises. And the intensity of the moral, social and sexual awakening it stirs up in its aftermath, for women and men alike. An intensity that just may increase, given the translation into one's own mother tongue.

New Voice Company's production of "The Vagina Monologues in Filipino" will run at the Music Museum until Feb. 15. Call 899-0630, 896-5497/6695

BALLET CLASSES AT CAMP AGUINALDO

The Camp Aguinaldo Academy of the Arts with the Effie Nanas School of Classical Ballet opens its doors to ballet aspirants starting Sept. 11. Classes are for pre-beginners (3-5 years old) up to adult ballet, and will be held every Tuesday (5 p.m.) and Saturday (11 a.m.). Call 912-6260.

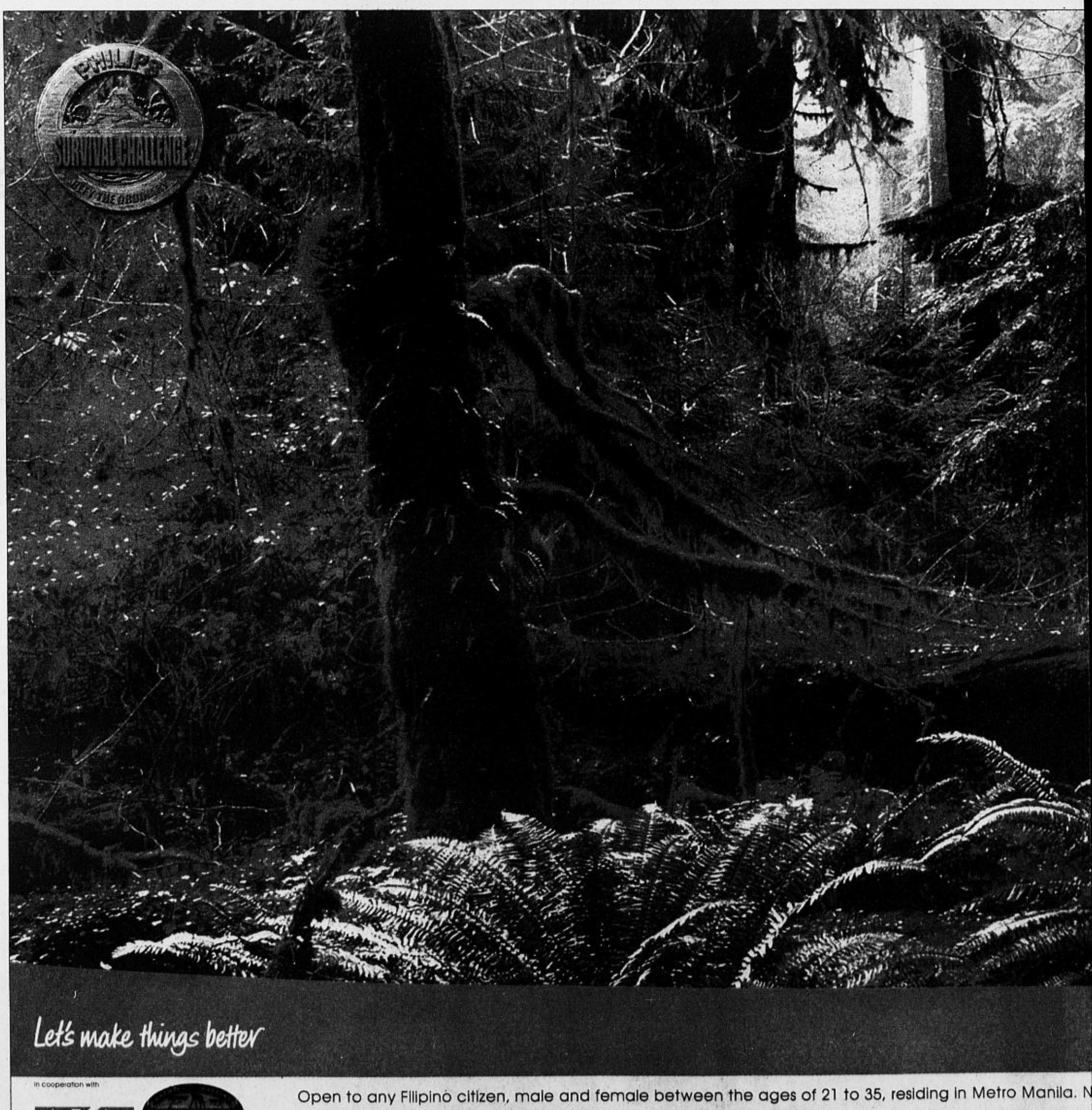
Dulaang Talyer offering

DULAANG Talyer continues its 2001-2002 Theater Season with "Obra Maestra," dedicated to raising awareness about the Filipino playwright.

"Obra Maestra" is a twin bill featuring National Artist Rolando S. Tinio's classic piece on social inequality, "May Katwiran ang Katwiran (Reason has a Reason)" and George Hernandez's "El Sentido del Indio (Indio Sensibility)," a riotous farce on love, corruption and the use of proper English.

"Obra Maestra" will have four shows at the Abelardo Hall in UP Diliman on Sept. 15 and 16. It stars Kristine Balmes, Charyl Chan, Nor Domingo, Carlo Espejo and Jiego Malvar. Directed by DT's artistic director Paul Y. Morales and Rolando Inocencio.

Call 925-1933 and 415-6786.



'Il Trovatore' returns to Manila after five decades

(From page D1)

the most problematic. It needs first-rate singers and first-rate production design and thus it commands a sizeable budget to mount.

And like the current telenovela going on in the Philippine Senate, opera is engrossing (someone in the presscon crowd suggested that "Il Trovatore" could be deconstructed with Ping Lacson and John Campos as Manrico and Count di Luna and with Rosebud as Leonora—but that is another story).

For this reason, new CCP president Nestor Jardin (an arts administrator in the last 20 years) calls opera fanatics as "fools and heroes." They are fools because they mount operas without a clear return of investment and heroes because they promote the art form with no hope of financial benefit.

Dismal

Baritone Nomer Son, who brokered the Philippine-Singapore opera production, says soprano Fides Cuyugan Asensio "will kill for opera" but both admitted (in the form of a sigh) that the state of the art form in the country is, well, dismal.

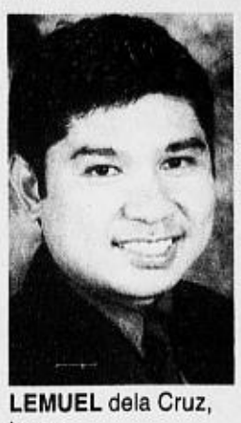
Andion Fernandez and Rachelle Gerodias are heard as incomparable Paminas ("Magic Flute") in Singapore, but not in Manila. Tenor Otoniel Gonzaga is heard as a supreme "Otello" in Prague and Japan but not in Manila. Noel Velasco, the country's first winner of the Pavarotti International Voice Competition in the early '80s, has yet to be heard with the PPO since he sang Don Jose in "Carmen" in 1986. They love to pay tribute to Filipino talents, but they don't do something to make use of Filipino singers in the homeland.

In the '80s during the time of Tita King Kasilag, the Sarah Caldwell-Noel Velasco-initiated Opera Company of the Philippines presented a Boston Opera-brokered "Magic Flute" and later, "Marriage of Figaro." The opera company died a natural death in the '80s. The country's leading temple of the arts also saw a production of a Filipino opera called "La Loba Negra" composed by Francisco Feliciano with libretto by Fides Cuyugan Asensio. The backstage bickering in this production landed on the front pages and for a while, it became typical of opera production in the country: Besieged by financial problems and wracked by personality clashes. But the CCP mounted "Carmen" later in the same decade and with the Opera Guild of the Philippines, an unforgettable "Rigoletto" featuring the luminous Gilda of Tosi Poleri. Still during the time of the late Bing Roxas, Manilans saw a revival of Felipe de Leon's "Noli Me Tangere," which harnessed the talents of Andion Fernandez (as Maria Clara), Nolyn Cabahug (as Ibarra) and Luz Morete (as Sisa). In the early '90s, Rolando Tinio mounted "La Traviata" and "La Boheme" in Pilipino. The former used a foreign Violetta and a Filipino Alfredo (Cabahug). The setting was transported from Paris to Binondo and the opera created quite a stir among the purists.

After two token productions in the '90s, opera took a backseat during the time of Popoy del Rosario and Baltazar Endriga. Again through the Opera Guild of the Philippines, the CCP under Armita Rufino revived Mozart's "Don Giovanni" (first seen in Manila in the '40s with the late National Artist Antonio Molina conducting) under the direction of Anton Juan. We don't think Mozart got more following in this production but it allowed Manilans a glimpse of the vocal status of Curtis-based Margarita Gomez who was a past winner of the Rosa Ponselle voice competition.

CHRISTINA Lamberti, soprano

STEFANO Costa, tenor



LEMUEL dela Cruz, tenor

LEOW Siak Fah, director

Comeback

A year after the least-heralded "Don Giovanni," opera stages a comeback at the Cultural Center of the Philippines under new CCP head Nestor Jardin with Verdi's "Il Trovatore." The opera is part of the popular trilogy of Verdi's operas consisting of "La Traviata" and "Rigoletto."

Like the Tinio "Traviata" in 1990, the setting of "Il Trovatore" has been reset in the turbulent days of the Philippine revolution.

First staged in Teatro Apollo in Rome in 1853, "Il Trovatore" was heard in Manila a hundred years later in 1953 with the Leonora of Remedios Bosch Jimenez (yes, the mother of Baby Arenas) with two Italians in the cast, tenor Arigo Pola and baritone Giuseppi Sabio. The Italians were hired through the Ferrone agency by the Manila Opera Company headed by Carmen Planas and Isang Tapales and the imported singers were reportedly paid P5,000 per performance.

Son said he was still in short pants when he saw the opera at the FEU Auditorium and Asensio was probably in the chorus. (Asensio could only shake her head at this claim.)

From the '20s to the '30s to the '40s down to the '50s, Nomer Son waxed nostalgic about the golden age of opera in the country.

He noted that even before the turn of the century, Italian opera companies were already heard in Manila.

Son cited a recording of Verdi's "Ernani" made in Manila in 1888 and this Manila-produced turn-of-the-century disc is on display at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan.

History

When did Filipinos actually make history in opera here and abroad?

In April 1924, soprano Isang Tapales became the first Filipina to sing "Madama Butterfly" in Teatro Donizetti in Bergamo, Italy (yes, the same town where PPO's current music director, Ruggero Barbieri, comes from). A year later, Jovita Fuentes made her debut in a municipal theater in Piacenza, Italy.

Three years later, Mercedes Matias Santiago sang Gilda in "Rigoletto" at Teatro Communale in Turin, Italy.

On the same year, bass baritone Jose Mossessgeld Santiago-Font became the first and the last Filipino singer to perform at La Scala di Milan as Sparafucile also in "Rigoletto."

In the 1940s, two Filipino singers, Dalisay Aldaba and Enya Gonzalez, made it to the New York City Opera in the lead roles for "La Boheme" and "Madama Butterfly."

In the 1950s, the country produced its first world-class Carmen in the person of Silay-born Conchita Gaston, who made a career in Europe. In the same decade, the teacher of Luciano Pavarotti, Arrigo Pola, along with another Italian opera icon, Ferrucio Tagliavini, visited Manila and discovered a Verdi heroine in Remedios Bosch Jimenez who sang the first Leonora in "Trovatore."

Maestra Mercedes Matias Santiago later became the country's first Lucia di Lammermoor in the '40s and the '50s.

In the '70s, Evelyn Mandac became the first Filipina to invade the Metropolitan Opera of New York and the first and the last to sing with Placido Domingo in a full-length opera (Meyerbeer's "L'Africaine").

In the '80s, Otoniel Gonzaga became the first Filipino soloist of Frankfurt Opera and the first tenor to sing Verdi's "Otello" in Prague and Japan.

In the 1990s, a new generation of opera singers made their presence felt all over the world—tenor Gary del Rosario in Cleveland, tenor Lemuel de la Cruz in Singapore and Hong Kong, soprano Rachelle Gerodias in the same cities and soprano Andion Fernandez and baritone Jonathan Zaens in Germany.

Worth reviving?

Will "Trovatore" finally awaken our cultural administrators that opera is worth reviving in this country?

Jardin, the new CCP president, said he would continue to study various areas of cooperation in future opera productions.

Opera Guild's Imelda Cojuangco said she would also welcome future production partnership with Asian neighbors even after "Trovatore."

But even with the advent of the new millennium, the words of the late, now National Artist for Theater Rolando Tinio, are still valid.

He had noted that cultural institutions still avoid opera like the plague (it's expensive!) and they mount opera productions in helter-skelter fashion or only as a diplomatic imperative, but never giving it the sustained support they gave to concert music, ballet or theater.

According to Tinio, it was probably the death of the likes of Isang Tapales and Jovita Fuentes which pulled the rug under our opera stars.

Indeed, our opera teachers and pioneers are either dead, past their prime or wrecked by teaching.

As we gird to watch "Il Trovatore" Friday and Saturday nights at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, let's recall the golden age of opera in Manila when people flocked to the Manila Grand Opera House and the Manila Metropolitan Theater for an evening of Verdi, Bizet and Bellini.

For tickets, call CCP Marketing Department at 832-3878, 551-7930 or 832-1125 local 1800-1806

RACHELLE Gerodias, soprano

REMEDIOS Bosch Jimenez played Leonora in the Teatro Apollo of Rome's production of "Il Trovatore."

> Verdi's searing opera of two brothers separated by fate and reunited in hate may find rough approximation in the battling PMA brods in the Senate

o purchase necessary. At stake for the **grand prize is a trip for two (2) to the African Safari plus P100,000 cash.** Register now through selected mobile .com.ph and www.gameplan23.com. Deadline for registration is on 19 September 2001. The qualifying round will be held at the Rockwell Tent, Makati ain event will be on the wilder side of Boracay, Aklan from September 30 to October 5, 2001. Take the challenge and defy the ordinary.

SEN. Loren Legarda, Ingrid Sala-Santamaria, Ma. Theresa Suplico and Sofia Z. Elizalde cut the ceremonial ribbon.

NATIONAL Philharmonic Society's concert manager Bing Veloso with Crispy Laurel

They all came to remember Red Romero

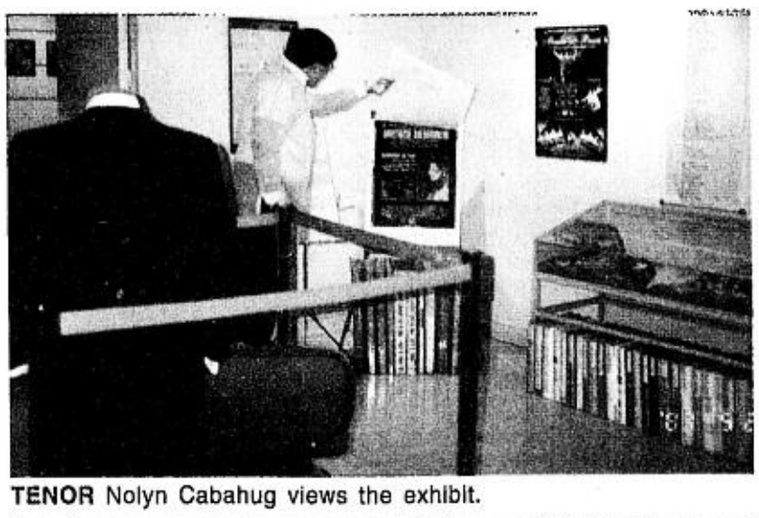
FAMILY members, friends, music lovers and Manila's culturati trooped to the Ayala Museum in Makati during the opening day exhibit of "Redtrospect" on Aug. 25 to celebrate the life and times of the country's only international conductor, Red Romero. The exhibit marked also what would have been Red's 72nd birthday. He passed away early this year.

Music filled the air as the National Philharmonic Society's string quartet serenaded the guests, bringing to life the maestro's arrangements. US-based writer and Red's daughter Sophia Romero, who flew in from New York the day before to attend her father's exhibit, was beaming with pride as she welcomed the guests. Tenor Nolyn Cabahug sang "Matud Nila" to the delight of the people. One of the highlights of the event was a speech by Sen. Loren Legarda, who said the evening was a welcome respite from the Senate hearings on the narcotics menace.

The Philharmonic and its curators, Bing Villegas and Joey Pastor, did a great job in putting together Red's invaluable collections and personal items—coattail, baton, violin, albums, scrapbooks, video clips, plaques, medals, Russian icons and other mementos. The exhibit showed an extensive list and photos of the orchestras and soloists he had performed with in the past 50 years of his musical career. Also on display were his work table and several music scores, including "Lihim ng Puso," which he was working on before he died. It was composed by Ma. Theresa Suplico.

The exhibit captured Romero's unprecedented life history—how he had accomplished so much and recognized by important musicians and artists around the world, like American jazz player Duke Ellington, the great violinist Jascha Heifetz, to name a few.

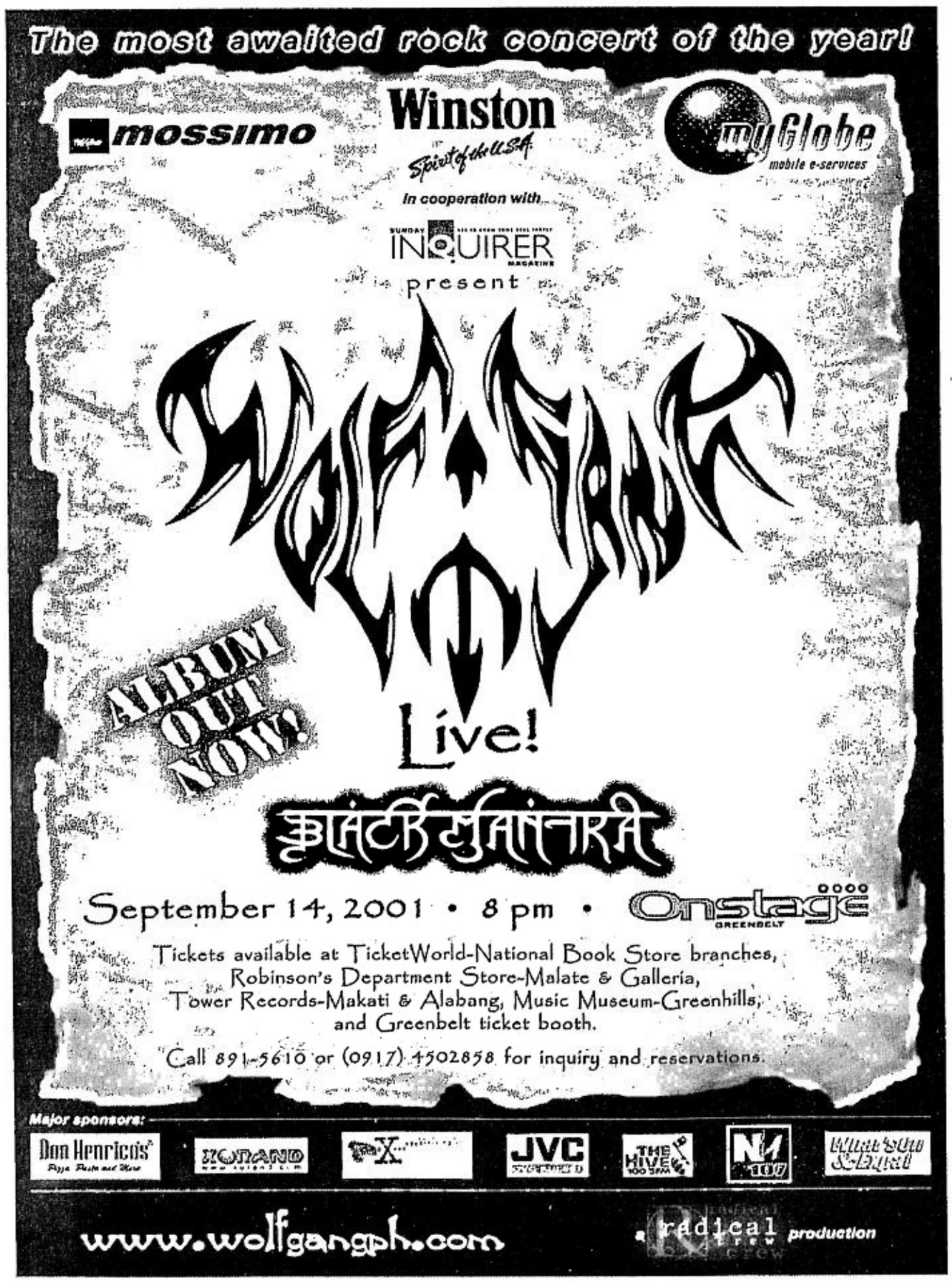
"Redtrospect" brought back to life Romero—the conductor, the violinist and the impresario.



TENOR Nolyn Cabahug views the exhibit.

ROMERO'S memorabilia on exhibit

TOYM awardee Dr. Carlos Santos-Ocampo with good friend Sophia and wife Joanna



Foundation honors 2001 freedom 'fighters'

EDSA '86 personalities joined in honoring recipients of the Freedom Award of the Joaquin "Chino" Roces Foundation Aug. 27 at the ballroom of the Westin Philippine Plaza.

Her Excellency **President Macapagal Arroyo** presented the plaque to JoeCon (**Jose Concepcion**), fittingly representing Namfrel, and **Sheila Coronel** of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism. Chief Justice **Hilario Davide** was honored for his outstanding judicial independence and wisdom.

Among the guests enjoying lunch were former President **Corazon Aquino**, feisty Sr. **Christine Tan** (if you want to know real love for the poor, watch Sister who lives among them), **Haydee Yorac, Fernando Pena, Maribel Ongpin, Adolf Azcuna, Katrina Legarda, June Macaspac, Fanny Aldaba Lim, Nina Yuson, Marixi** and **Alex Prieto, Karla Delgado, Simon Paterno** (whose mom is **Ninit Roces** of the Save Arroceros Park from the Hands of Politicians), **Gianna Montinola** and lots of other Roceses, Legardas, relatives, in-laws and friends.

Peachy Prieto was up and about, looking great after her operation, although **Bettina de Leon** looked worried about sister Peachy's blue fingertips. Turned out it was dye! **Wacky Roces Guerrero** sat at our table with **Tony Roces**. They both agreed a book titled "The Roces Women" would make great reading. Categories are Eccentric, Very Eccentric and Bonkers—Tony's words, not mine. We also agreed that a biography of Tito Chino could be titled "The Last Romantics." Who else but a romantic would have done as he did?

* * *

Another awards ceremony took place earlier in the same week at the lobby of the Enterprise Center with tony Evian mineral water bottle hosting a reception to honor seven outstanding figures in design. There was, of course, National Artist **Arturo Luz** being congratulated by Spanish Ambassador **Tomas Pantoja**. Luz donated the etched design for the glass sculpture celebrating the Catholic Women's Club's 80th anniversary on sale later this year. (Make a reservation as there are only 500 pieces.)

Intriguingly innovative canapés by **Gaita Fores**, another honoree, were passed around to be sampled with Evian. Other honorees were **Inno Sotto, Patrick Rosas, Budji Layug, Ed Calma**, son of the famous **Lor** who is catching up fast with his father's awards, and **Toni Parsons** of the gorgeous floral arrangements. Mingling with the rich and famous were Australian Ambassador **John Buckley** and his lovely wife, **Alice**; Chilean Ambassador **Carmen Lynam**; **John Lockhart** of the Asian Development Bank with his elegant wife **Julie**; **Tessie Luz, Lulu Castaneda** and lots of glamorous others.

* * *

The Catholic Women's Club held its 80th annual tea at the Peninsula titled "An Asian Festival." Members and guests came in colorful Asian costumes with matching headdresses. **Linda Pastoral**, chair of the tea, together with **Consuelo Preysler** and **Maabel Abano** organized the do including the "Parade of Asian Nations Contest." Judges were **Ben Farrales, Patis Tesoro, Danny Dolor, Aureo Alonzo, Ado Escudero, Boysie Villavicencio** and **Antonio Garcia**.

Winners were **Annabelle Adriano, Millete Ocampo** and **Nellie Bengson**. Other winners were **Mimi Ilic, Thelma Gana, Wang Jabang, Luz Santos, Nenuca Blardony** and **Mely Ablaza**. Capping the festival was a well-applauded medley of Asian dances performed by CWC members.

CWC president Lulu Tesoro Castaneda inducted new members including National Artist **Leonor Orosa Goquingco, Narda Camacho** and Patis Tesoro. CWC's latest limited-edition plate, "Mag-Ina" by **BenCub**, was also launched. The plates will be available at CWC's Casa y Jardin Bazaars on Oct. 14 at the Inter-Con and Oct. 21 at the Peninsula. (For details, call **Violy** at 843-2869 at the CWC office).

* * *

Goethe-Institut Inter Nationes Manila, the German Cultural Center, announces the offering of German language courses for beginners and advanced students Sept. 15-Dec. 16. Goethe is located at 687 Aurora Blvd., corner Gilmore, tel. 722-4671 to -73. For more information, visit their homepage (www.goethe.de/manila) or the main website in Munich (www.goethe.de), which has an English version.

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

Amiga

PRESIDENT Macapagal Arroyo and Chief Justice Hilario Davide

JOSE Concepcion receives his plaque from the President.

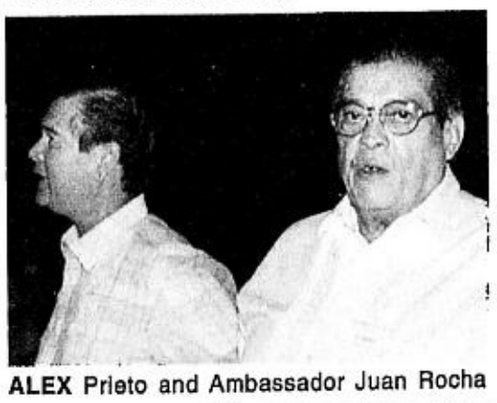
WACKY Guerrero, Sheila Coronel and Marixi Prieto

FANNY Aldaba Lim, Nina Yuson, Karla Delgado and Maribel Ongpin

PRESIDENT Macapagal Arroyo and former President Corazon C. Aquino

NENING Manahan, Marcos Roces and Adolf Azcuna

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON



ALEX Prieto and Ambassador Juan Rocha

EDGARDO Roces

JUSTICE Panglilinan

AMBASSADOR John and Julie Lockhart

AMBASSADOR John Huckley

ALICE Huckley

Lyceum of Aparri to build a church dedicated to San Lorenzo Ruiz

(From page D3)

I am looking for testimonies of miracles wrought by God through the intercession of Our Lady of Peñafrancia. Please e-mail me at josiedpurely@yahoo.com.

By the way, the Archdiocese of Nueva Caceres, to which Naga belongs, has 60 parishes and 179 priests serving the present population of 1,180,296 people, 91 percent of whom are Catholics.

Building dedicated to 'Ina'

REMEDIOS Gacer Castelo, 85, dedicated her building in Mandaluyong to Our Lady of Peñafrancia whom she affectionately calls "Ina." As a matter of fact, the fourth floor of the building is the meeting place of Bicolano devotees who now live in Metro Manila.

I was able to attend one meeting and I marveled at how this lady has unselfishly offered her place for meetings through the years. Her late husband, lawyer Ponciano Castelo, carried the same devotion.

Tita Meding remembers that when she was 8 years old in 1924, she was one of the angels during this devotion to "Ina." At 85, she is still working. And she aptly calls the meeting place of devotees as Peñafrancia Hall.

Those who wish to have *estampitas* of "Ina" can write me. Please enclose a self-stamped addressed envelope.

"TRANSLACION" In stained glass by Pancho Plano for the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion of the Basilica Minore de Peñafrancia to be blessed on Sept. 13.

Marriage encounter seminar

THE SERVANTS of the Holy Spirit Catholic Community will hold a Marriage Encounter Weekend Seminar on Sept. 14-16 at La Salette Center in Silang, Cavite. For details, please call Jerry, Paulette, 926-3002; Ben Germie at 853-0110; Goy at 927-4415; Rikki or Gigi at 920-0623.

Thank you, God

LET'S take a deep breath and thank God for our blessings despite the bad news we read and hear on TV and radio. Thank you, God, for there are still people who reach out to others and help them.

I am praying for my readers who respond to the needs of priests, churches and poor students. Right now, I need 1,500 scapulars, preferably the plastic ones, for the youth in Mauban, Quezon. And there's still need to help pay the image of Sta. Rita de Cascia for Gubat, Sorsogon. Please beep me at 141-020543.

Healing seminar

THE ICPE Philippines' Catholic Institute for World Evangelization invites you to an inner healing seminar on Sept. 13 and 14, 7-9 p.m. at the Lay Force Center in San Carlos Seminary in Guadalupe, Makati. Sabina Cappello Lee is speaker. For details, please call 637-4998/6680. Registration fee is P100.

Bus to Naga fiesta

GLORIA Gelua and friends are organizing a pilgrimage to Naga for the Peñafrancia fiesta on Sept. 15. The P3,000 fee will include bus fare, hotel accommodations and food. Please call Gloria at 531-1710 or Roger Manaoag at 531-9918.

Pilgrimage to Holy Land

FR. Luis Ibasco is leading pilgrims to Holy Land on Oct. 18. Those interested can call Arpex Travel at 525-3883.

Goodbye, Jonathan Ma

LET'S pray for the repose of the soul of Jonathan Ma, our PDI correspondent in Mindanao. God bless his soul.

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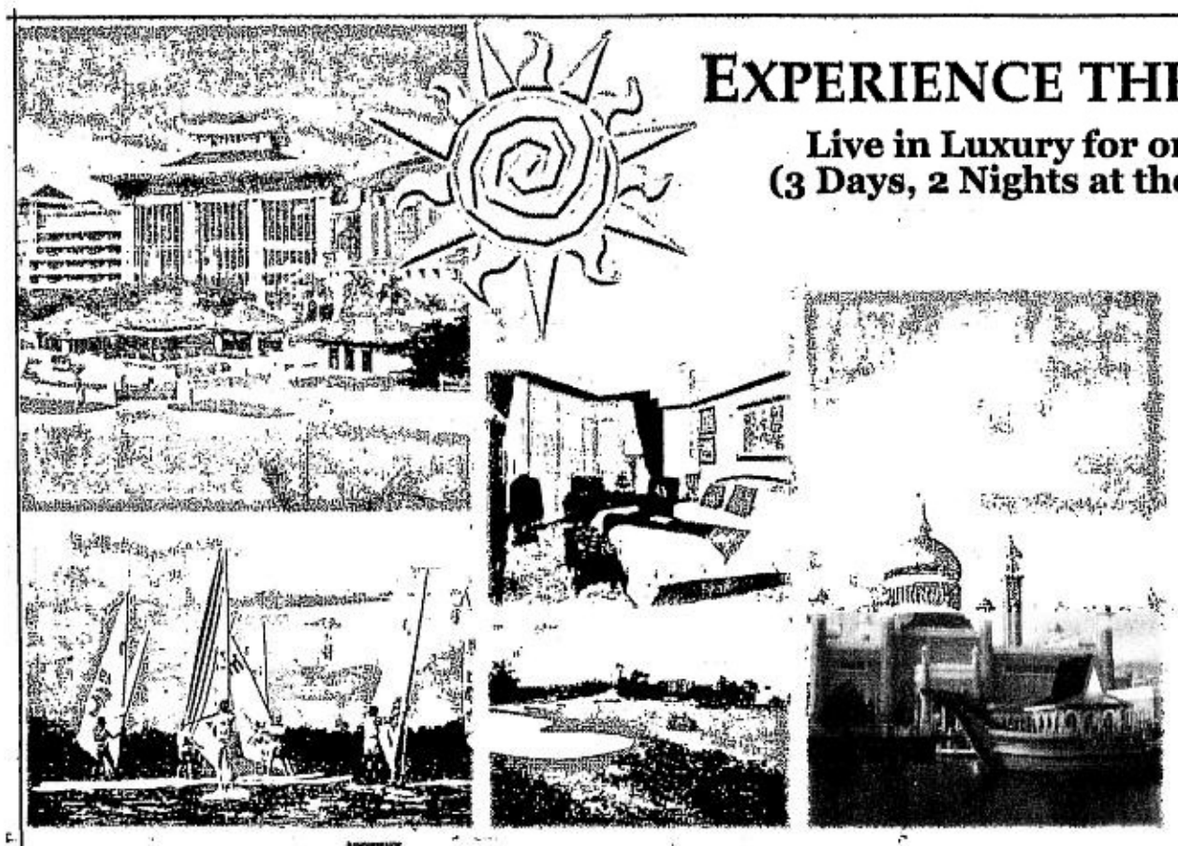

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Brunei

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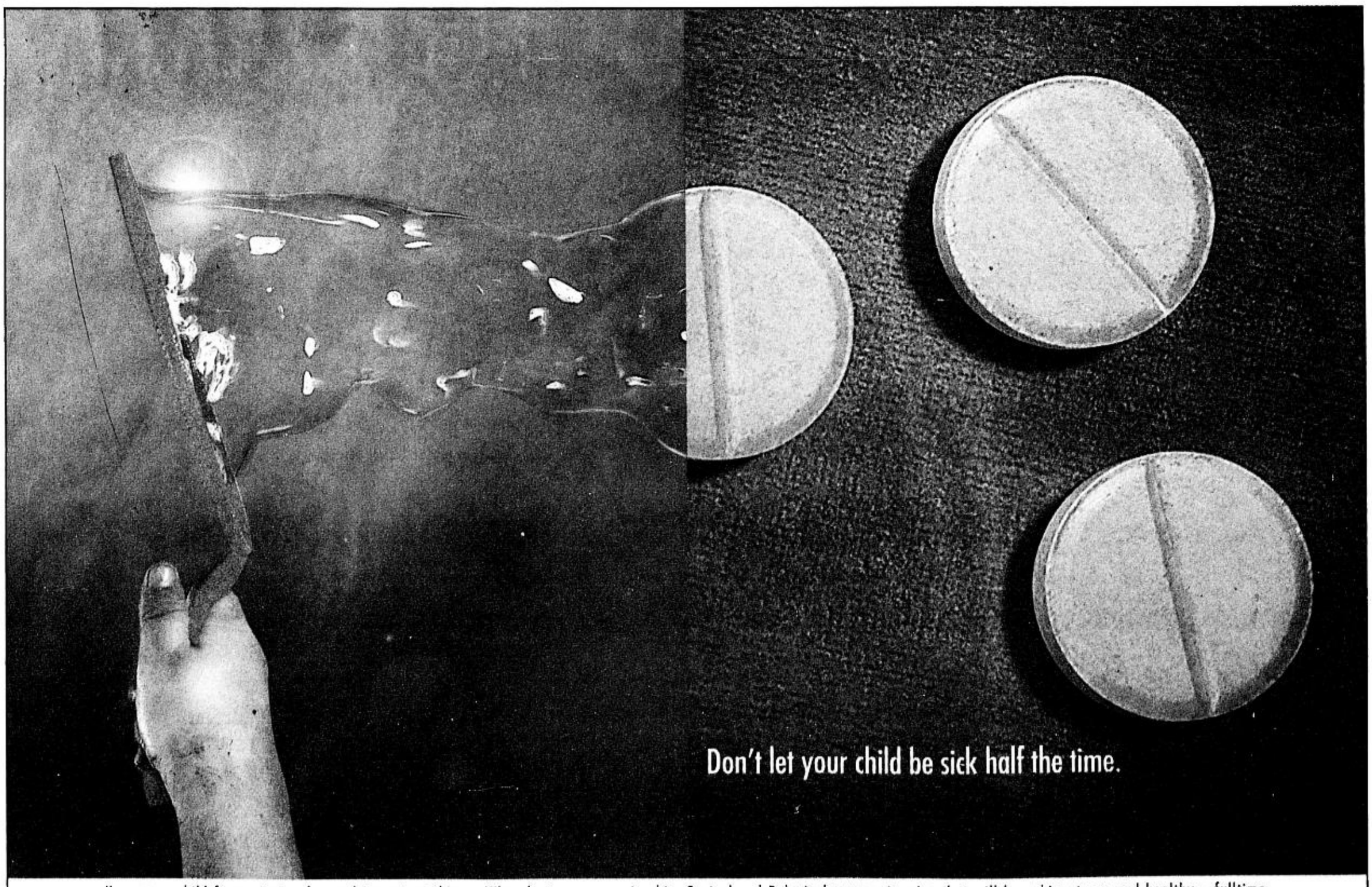

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Prepaid Plus	P25.00	P2.50	P25.00	P2.50	P25.00

Icons and Text Cards available only for Nokia 3100, 3210, 3310, 3330, 3410, 3510, 3650, 5210, 6250, 7210, 8210, 8850, 8910, 8910i & 9210

RM honoree explains preservation to City College students

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

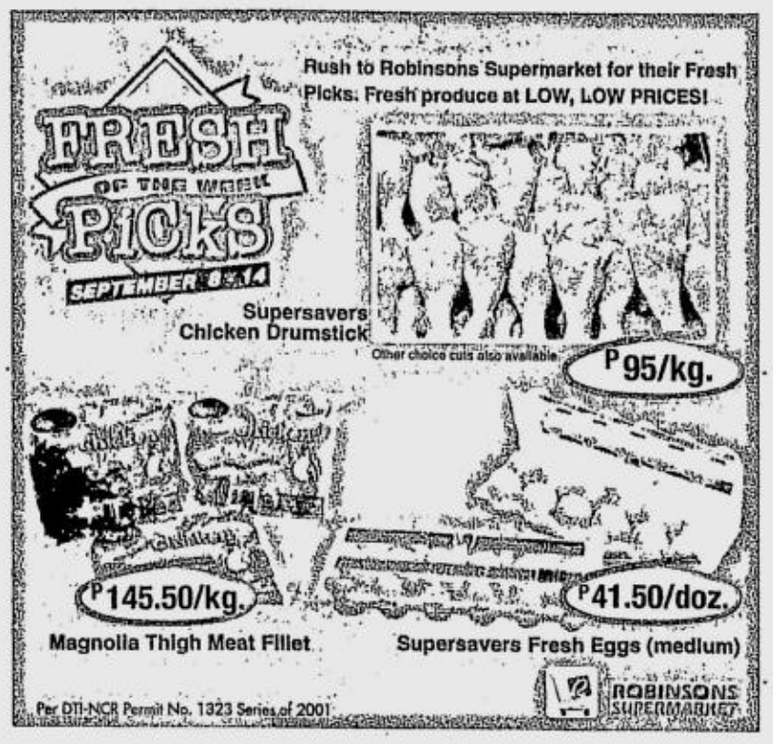
THE 2001 Ramon Magsaysay Awards are significant. It was the first time that the award for peace and international understanding was given in recognition of an individual's lifetime efforts to preserve cultural heritage.

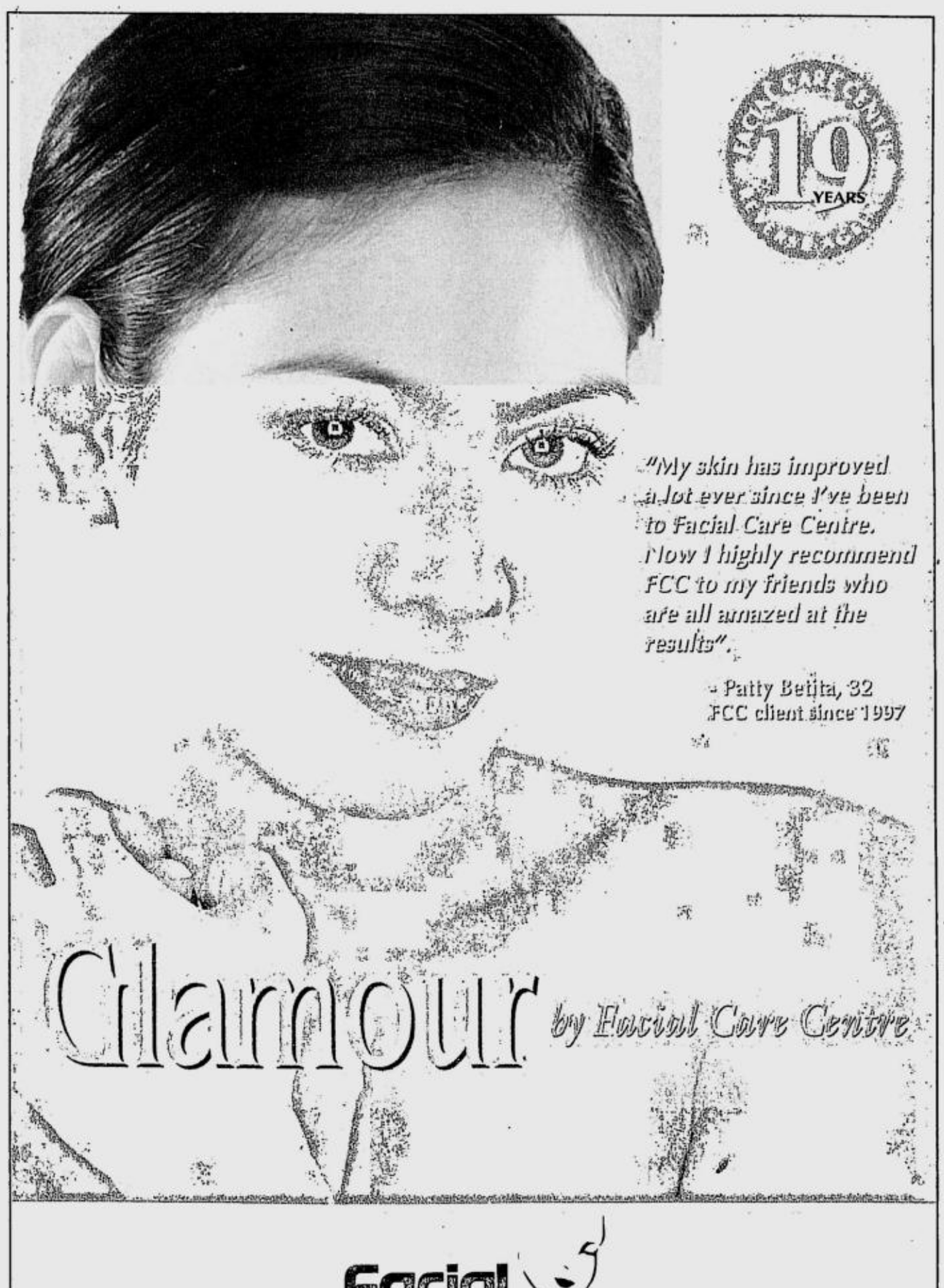
This year's awardee, Ikuo Hirayama of Japan, is an award-winning painter and educator who capped his career by becoming president of the prestigious Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music, a post he had held from 1989-95.

The atomic bomb explosion in Hiroshima changed Hirayama's life. He was a middle school student when the bomb destroyed his native city, killing many of his schoolmates and teachers. Moving on with his life after the disaster, he studied Japanese painting at the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music and joined its faculty in 1952.

Many years later, he suffered from the ill effects of radiation. His suffering brought about a physical crisis that culminated in a spiritual awakening. In 1959, he expressed his epiphany in a painting that depicted the 7th-century Chinese monk Xuanzang who had traveled on the Silk Road from India, bringing the message of Buddha to China and

RM HONOREE/ p.E4





Kikkoman Soy Sauce is naturally brewed. The production method used to make Kikkoman Soy Sauce is perhaps the oldest and most authentic, using a precise set of guidelines that dates back centuries.

It takes several months to produce naturally brewed Kikkoman while it takes only days to make chemically produced soy sauce.

Naturally brewed Kikkoman Soy Sauce has a delicate, almost transparent, redish-brown color while the chemically produced soy sauce is usually black, opaque in color.

Naturally brewed Kikkoman Soy Sauce has a delicate and richer scent, while chemically produced soy sauce has an obvious chemical aroma.

Naturally brewed Kikkoman Soy Sauce enhances the flavors of meat, fish and vegetables.

17th century soy sauce production in Japan.

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Eulogy in black granite and industrial paint

BY CONSTANTINO C. TEJERO

REDUCING things to their essentials is Zen. Attaining enlightenment by the most direct possible means is Zen. Thus, any piece of art that possesses the quality of utmost simplicity is thought to be Zen-like.

It is this quality in Roberto Marcelo Afable Robles' recent work, both in stone and mixed media, that leads art critics to describe them as Zen-like. Robles himself winces at such label, as he was not conscious of that Eastern discipline while he was doing those pieces.

Perhaps it was his association with Japan that has made this label stick? Having studied sculpture for five years at the Institute of Art and Design in the University of Tsukaba, surely he has assimilated the culture and sublimated it in his work?

"Eulogy to the Filipino," Robles' seventh one-man exhibit held simultaneously in Galleria Duemila and Gallerie Y at the SM Megamall, Aug. 21 to Sept. 9, would seem to both confirm and refute that label. The sculptural pieces do have the simplicity and serenity of Zen, while the mixed-media pieces possess the haphazard quality and violent soul of Abstract Expressionism and Art Informel.

"SCULPTURE I"

The mixed-media pieces are an unlikely wedding of sculpture and painting on canvas or wood. A typical piece is a random assemblage of strips of canvas, pieces of wood and assorted items glued, pasted, stapled or nailed together, then painted with industrial paint, artist's paint, oil, acrylic, even a mixture of water and paint. The highly texturized artwork that results approximates bas-relief, thus the artist calls it "painted relief."

Dark monochrome

Most of these pieces are large and monochromatic, predominantly black with patches of white, silver, gray and maybe tinges of blue, green, violet. The paint is often daubed, poured, dripped, splattered, the method closer to that of action painting.

Typical is "Painted Relief VIII," 96" x 48", the canvas glued with a bit of paper, a small scrap of tin sheet, a piece of plywood poured with concrete, the unraveled threads of canvas, staple wires and nails prominently showing.

"Painted Relief V," 96.333" x 51.614", has wooden boards and canvas strips roughly nailed together, then glued with a swatch of cloth, a strip of wallpaper, a small white-and-blue quartz alarm clock (Robles' recurrent theme of time) below a slender reddish-brown bamboo tube (taken from an old Japanese farmhouse) wound with string and fixed with wire and nails, like a bird perch. The predominantly white field is broken by rectangles of gray, black, red, ochre, slate, with impasto and drippings of paint streaking down the piece.

When Robles uses chromatic colors, they come off startling in the vividness of their hues. In one of his favorite creations, "Painted Relief VI," 62.25" x 96.14", the huge canvas is a blaze of red with small rectangles of white and blue, bordered on one side by a yellow strip. In some portions of the piece, the plywood backing shows between the strips of canvas, which are joined together by wooden bars and nails.

"PAINTED Relief IV"

In "Painted Relief VII," 27.58" x 96.14", a triptych, the long frame is divided into three panels of canvas in ochre, beige and white, with rectangles of orange, violet and red, smears and drippings of yellow and green, and spattering of white and gray.

Startling hues

"Tranquil Pond," 64.5 cm x 122.5 cm, is a diptych that looks like double frames or twin windows opening to a contrast study of dark and light blue, one in indigo, the other in cerulean, with rectangles of ink-blue and aquamarine, respectively. It could be the same pond, at night and at daytime, as a haiku master would have seen it.

"The Courtyard Garden under the Moonlight," 61.5 cm x 129.7 cm, is also a diptych, one panel in ripe yellow, the other in leaf-green, and the canvas bordered with azure. This is, indeed, a Zen-like meditation on the greenness of landscape and yellowness of light. But to break such romantic notion, the artist shows the staple wires holding the canvas strips together, and lays thick the impasto of viscid yellow and bilious green.

"Songs of the Night Birds," 220 cm x 60.5 cm, has a similarly romantic title, but again the artist breaks that illusion by dripping and streaking the rough plywood with impasto of black and white and rectangles of red and yellow, fixing the piece with nails and staple wires, then adding in the lower section a gray wooden block that looks like a fuse box. This one is the most textured of the reliefs.

"PAINTED Relief V"

Things other artists would shyly conceal Robles impudently reveals. By showing the tools and mechanism that created the piece of art, and in the process destroying the viewer's illusion, he is actually commenting on the artwork itself and the nature of art in general. This is, of course, postmodern self-reflexivity.

Rich tones

"Most artists treat their works like they were sacred, making them very smooth, *saksakan ng kinis*," Robles wryly says. "But I am after the soul, I'm not after the skin. I want something spontaneous. I'm not after a poster, or something acute. When will we educate Filipino art viewers if we conceal such things? *Kailan tayo aandar? Kung matakot tayong magpakita ng* staples *dahil hindi bebenta*... I mean, if an artwork sells, okay—if not, it's okay *din*."

He particularly loathes the idea that what makes an artwork work is if the artist uses expensive materials in its creation. "I want to break that kind of thinking," he says wistfully.

He has done figurative sculpture in marble, bronze, terra-cotta, even glass, but this time, in the exhibit, the three sculptural pieces are nonrepresentational and done in black granite.

Their multiple planes have been chiseled in parts to attain the look and texture of concrete, adobe or sand, while the buffed planes have the smoothness and shine of black glass. Two are horizontal pieces, the slabs of hard black stone reclining like seats of thin benches.

"Sculpture III," 6½" x 56¼" x 13", like the other two, has its planes variously textured, half-polished and buffed, resulting in rich tones of silver, gray and black, respectively, with both ends of the long narrow slab roughly cut. ("*Gustong-gusto ko 'to*, because it's so simple," enthuses the artist.)

Valid meaning

"Sculpture II," 6¼" x 56" x 12", conjures the horizon of the sea (the artist reveals he was in Calatagan when he got the idea). The stone's black and gray planes could be the beach, and its textured silver surface the shimmering water or whitening foam.

"Sculpture I," 63½" x 7" x 8", with several edges and indentations, stands upward on a circular steel base. Elegant and slim, the vertical form looks like a small obelisk, thus evocative of eulogy or tribute.

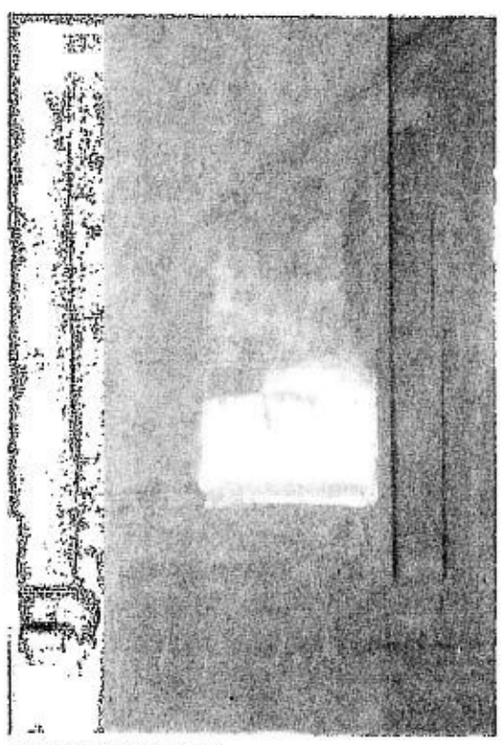
How then do these forms and colors relate to the exhibit's title? When the artist works, does he set out with meaning in his mind?

"Meaning evolves while I'm working on the material," Robles says.

He reveals that with this exhibit he is commemorating Edsa II, and through this he is congratulating the people for what they had accomplished in January. Though time seems to prove that life since then is just as hard, if not worse, still he'd rather look at the positive side of things.

With the dark monochrome tuning into vivid hues, for instance, maybe one can say happiness comes through suffering. And doesn't the viewer see that the slender bamboo tube on one of the reliefs is a reminder of the Filipino's well-known resiliency?

This is meaning that can be simplistic, but it's more valid that overinterpretation.



"PAINTED Relief VI"

Mendez at West Gallery; Cadapan at the Ayala; Bautista at Nemiranda Arthouse

VISUAL ARTS

JOEL Mendez mounts his new collection of paintings of frills in "Wine and Dine," a cool depiction of how he feels toward art and life. The show is currently on view at the West Gallery, 3/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City until Sept. 18.

Mendez, a physician and weight management expert, has taken an unconventional route, experimenting with abstraction early in his painting career. He has recently explored more recognizable shapes and forms, particularly those that can be found in the home, wine bottles included. Call 752-7028 to 29.

CADAPAN AT AYALA. Inday Cadapan mounts her latest one-woman show dubbed "Recent Works" at the Lobby of the Ayala Museum. The exhibit features her most recent works on ceramic tiles, handmade paper framed on antique windows and masks. The exhibit runs until Sept. 30. Call 812-1191 to 97 local 106.

BAUTISTA AT NEMIRANDA ARTHOUSE. Aaron Bautista mounts his latest exhibit, "Due," until Sept.13, at the Nemiranda Arthouse, 4/L SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Call 634-1744.

BOLIPATA AND CRISOLOGO AT WEST GALLERY. Plet Bolipata and Norman Crisologo will mount their first show together dubbed "Interior Motives" at the West Gallery, 4/L Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City from Sept. 13-25. Call 634-1284.

OLIVERIA AT THE MET. Jason Oliveria mounts his solo exhibit until Sept. 26 at The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City. Dubbed "Refractions," it features small works on paper dealing mainly with intimate portraits of people and mundane objects. Call 897-6990/7877.

VINLUAN AT THE AYALA. Nestor Olarte Vinluan mounts his 12th one-man show, "From Blue to Earth with Red," at Gallery 3, Ayala Museum. The exhibit features his most recent works done in acrylic. The exhibit will run until Sept. 30. Call 812-1191 to 97 local 106.

VITASA AT GALLERY 139. Inna Vitasa mounts her solo exhibit "First Blooms, First Fruits." The talented painter's long-overdue one-woman show of watercolors and pastels will be held from Sept. 14-26 at Gallery 139, 3/F Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City.

ARELLANO AT DLSU ART GALLERY. De La Salle University-Manila's Art Gallery features young artist Datu Arellano in "Magnilay" until Sept. 29. Arellano uses mixed media and capitalizes on ordinary materials such as matchstick heads, guitar string cover, plastic containers, coffee beans and sawdust.

EDADES AT THE AYALA. Joan Edades will present her latest works at the Ma'I Room and Art Lane of the Ayala Museum on Sept. 18. The exhibit will run until Sept. 29. Call 812-1191 to 97.

GROUP EXHIBIT AT THE ARTWALK. "Guilty Pleasures," an exhibit of large-scale paintings, mixed-media works, sculptures and installations by 26 of the country's leading young artists is currently on view at the Artwalk, 4/L SM Megamall Building A, Mandaluyong City until Sept. 24. Participating artists include Ronald Achacoso, Juan Alcazaren, Bert Antonio, Agnes Arellano, Felix Bacolor, Pardo de Leon, Francesca Enriquez, Waling Gorospe, Nilo Ilarde, Romeo Lee, Jet Melencio, Elaine Roberto Navas, Lubin Nepomuceno, Jonathan Olazo, Bernardo Pacquing, Dan Raralio, Raul Rodriguez, Juni Salvador, Popo San Pascual, Jojo Serrano, Soler Santos, Gerardo Tan, Gemo Tapales, Trek Valdizno, Karissa Villa and Reggie Yuson.

ONE of the detailed *callado* works of Araceli Dans, on view at Hotel Inter-Con Manila until Sept. 30.

"BLUE FLIGHT," an acrylic painting by Mariano Madarang, signifies the search for global recognition. It's on view at Visual Concepts Gallery until Sept. 21.

GROUP EXHIBIT AT LEYTE. The Atitipalo Visual Arts Group of Palo, Leyte will hold an art exhibit dubbed "Balangiga: Mga Aningal (Echoes of Balangiga)." Participating artists include Raul Agner, Leo Acebedo, Rico Palacio and Archie Zabala. The exhibit will run from Sept. 25 to Oct. 15 at the Leyte Shed Center (Provincial Capitol Grounds), Tacloban City. Call (053) 327-2743 or (053) 323-2372.

GROUP EXHIBIT AT AYALA. The Wired Group holds an exhibit dubbed "Rain," their second group show at the Ma'I Room of the Ayala Museum. The exhibit features each member's interpretation on the subject of "rain" using varied art forms and showcasing each group member's distinct style. The name "wire" actually means "Women in Residence." Members are composed of expats of various nationalities. The exhibit will feature the works of Janet Eason, Corinne Fraser, Lyn Gazal, Pam Shaw, Sharon Broadley, Consuelo Steley, Sa-Ock Kim, Kavita Chhabra and Amy Soini. The exhibit runs until Sept. 16. Call 812-1191 to 97 local 106.

GROUP EXHIBIT AT HOTEL INTER-CON. Hotel Inter-Continental Manila's lobby Art Café presents "September Still Lifes," an exhibit of still life renditions by 12 of the country's exciting exponents of the art. Participating artists include National Artist Ang Kiukok (cubistic), Plet C. Bolipata (paints in vibrant colors), Araceli Dans (known for her *callado* detailed works), Isabel Diaz (transparent images), Ofelia Gelveson-Tequi (simple impressions), Lilia Lao (collage and pastel), Nikulas Lebajo (multiple images of subject matter), Ma Llaguno-Ciani (dreamlike images), Popo San Pascual (playful style), Fernando Sena (impressionist), Claire-lynn Uy (floating subjects) and Phyllis Zaballero (swirly strokes and strong colors). The exhibit runs until Sept. 30. Call 815-9711.

GROUP EXHIBIT AT VISUAL CONCEPTS GALLERY. Fourteen artists present an exhibit of their latest works until Sept. 21 at the Visual Concepts Gallery, 580 Edsa Malibay, Pasay City. Participating artists are: Mariano Madarang, Paul Dimalanta, Raul Isidro, Eel Gajo, Raul Lebajo, Vincent Ramos, Robert Balajadia, Rafael Cusi, Carlos Gabuco, Maridel Coching, Rolando Yumang, Carlo Magno Tiausas, Buji Blancaflor and Egay Roxas. Call 833-6754, 512-7799/7800.

GERMAN ARTIST AT THE MET. The Metropolitan Museum of Manila with Goethe Institut Inter Nationes Manila presents an exhibit of pre- and postwar artworks of German artist Hannah Hoch (1889-1978). The exhibit runs until Sept. 22 at the Catwalk of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. Call 523-7855.

"BANGKUSINA" (*bangko*) by Benjie Reyes is ongoing at Gallery 139, 3/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City.

."UNTITLED" by Anita Magsaysay-Ho

Art auction to benefit Ballet Philippines

ANITA Magsaysay-Ho's three artworks, together with the works of National Artist Arturo Luz, Bencab, Malang, Joya, Manuel Baldemor and Ramon Orlina, are on the block for an art auction "Artists for Artists" on Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m., at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Main Theater Lobby. Proceeds will benefit Ballet Philippines' Dancer's Endowment Fund, which provides financial assistance to its members upon retirement. A P500 admission ticket entitles the bidder to win raffle prizes, including prints, rare maps and books of Anita Magsaysay-Ho. Call 551-1003/0221.

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Golden Acres, Pomelo St.
Talon V, Las Piñas City

2nd Prize: One (1) JVC Boom Box

ROJHESSA B. JORE
Paciencia Compound, Tipolo
Mandaue City

3rd Prize: One (1) SHIMANO Mountain Bike

EDGAR ESPINOSA
701B, 71D PA Banaoag,
Ma. Aurora, Aurora

Actual appearance of prizes may vary from photos

Other First Preliminary Draw Winners

4th Prizes
Three (3) COLEMAN Coolers

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#158 San Rdad. Pillar Village,
Almanza, Las Piñas City

Jojo Capillan
Sitio Pagtis, San Mateo, Rizal

Luciana H. Navaja
Engrs U. Rama, Cebu City

5th Prizes
Ten (10) NIKE Triax Junior Watches

Lino B. Sopoco
Blk 2, Lot 24, Marana Homes,
Molino, Cavite

Fortunato N. Tiblo
Blk 5, Lot 5 M.H. Caloocan City

Dionisio C. Narciso
E.V.A. Compound Bulacan,
Talisay City, Cebu

Joseph Lee
Country Mall Cineplex

Anne F. Gagigas
Sudion Lahug, Cebu City

Marjoron Abrenico
San Cristobal, San Pablo City

Robert Zafra
B24, L49, Molino Homes,
Salitran, Dasmariñas, Cavite

Lorna Ang-Ang
2014 Maria Luisa Luzon Ave.,
Sampaloc, Manila

Evelyn Alaor
253 Gen. Luis St., Kaybiga,
Novaliches, Caloocan City

Gamie M. Agbay
537 Basak, Mandaue City

6th Prizes
Ten (10) NIKE Interchangeable Eye Wear

Lucita A. Tuazon
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Guiguo, Quezon City

Angelina N. Pascual
6199 Hegalado St. Don Galo,
Parañaque City

Elpidio S. Talactac
Amaya, Tanza, Cavite

Grace Lagare
Population Aurora,
Zamboanga del Sur

Jose Victor Q. Corsiga
124 Mt. Fairwarmel
Filinvest I, Quezon City

Alfredo Cayabo
298 Carlatan, San Fernando City,
La Union

Mel V. Medina
Magdalang, Novaleta, Cavite

Cecilia Bagi
164 Gabriela Silang, Quezon City

Paul Ernest M. Lazaro
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Salinas, Bacoor, Cavite

Leoncio Tech
33 Alkalde Jose St., Pasig City

Francisco Arcilla
Guba, Cebu City

Rina Malijan
539 Brgy. San Felix,
Sto. Tomas, Batangas

Eduardo C. Ardiente
826 Gold St., Campos Homes 3
Sucat, Parañaque City

Margie B. Francisco
Payatas A Elem. School,
Ilang-Ilang St., Payatas, Q.C.

Jonel Barcenilla
26-A Bayabas Ext., Mambalines,
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Angelina T. Gepolongca
B137, L4 A. Bonifacio St.
Brgy. Rizal, Makati

Analyn Arbitrario
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8th Prizes
Five (5) HARROWS Dart Sets

Dodie Rosacay
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Metro His., Subd., Cupiá, Q.C.

Luzviminda C. Dimaculangan
B2L Lot 5A, Jasmine St.,
Modesta Vill., San Mateo, Rizal

Ma. Bulac B. Dinagulit
#6 1st St. Palm Hills Subd.,
Basak, Mandaue City, Cebu

Noel Lagare
Population Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur

Peace C. Alcon
San Jose, San Miguel, Iloilo City

9th Prizes
Twenty-five (25) SONY Sports Radios

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Punta Ibabao, Lapu-Lapu City

Jonathan Eric R. Barellano
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Rey Vivo
13 France St., Bl 5 Parañaque

Reinier C. Tuling
76 San Diego Subd., Arkong Bato,
Valenzuela City

Jossie S. Yutis
Silay City, Negros Occidental

Linda C. Galan
Phase 2B Blk 6, Lot 14,
Villa Leyson, Dasmariñas, C.C.

Andy Capulong
Lamang, Candaba, Pampanga

Engr. Freddie Rivera
PEO, Pagadian City

Nalla Elwas
JD 199 Bayabas, Pico,
La Trinidad, Benguet

Lanie Macasait
Busilo Cristo, Tala, Caloocan City

Manuel R. Locsin
12 St. Gen. Aguinaldo Road,
Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

John Felipe A. Obien
14 Bungon, Balaoi, Ilocos Norte

Engr. Alfred Mabansag
2C Sanhiguel Bldg., Pampona 3,
Vergara, Las Piñas City

Glenn C. Vitug
122 Sparrow St., Moonville Subd.,
Parañaque City

Emily Bono
62A Sunrise Village,
Pardo, Cebu City

Mariano Ligacion
29 Lucky Homes Subd.,
Jaro, Iloilo City

Jesus M. Ba-on, Jr.
FC 321 Central Bahli
La Trinidad, Benguet

Catherine Y. Casimsiman
Tres de Abril St., Cebu City

Karen T. Olojan
P4-A Lower Doongan,
Buluan City

Pedro R. Alipin, Jr.
c/o Pryce Gases Inc., Sindalan/S.F.

Ma. Teresa Angara
P. Remorio St., Bulwad
Mandaue City

Nora Valdez
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972 B. Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Q.C.

Anna Marie E. Aggasid
A. Bonifacio Drive, Quiapo

Benjie L. Dantuas
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P. Sulang, Calocan City

Edita G. Vargas
Lot 22 Blk 15 Heritage Longos,
Malolos, Bulacan

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Twenty (20) TOBY'S Billiards Cue Sticks with Case

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Recky A. Macion
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Edna Rollenas Barillo
Brgy. San Lucas I,
Ramos Compound, San Pablo City

Genie Go Lim
2 Planaang St. Talayan Village, Q.C.

Dioscoro Barua, Jr.
Naundan, Guimbal, Iloilo

Bobby Cantonjos
#6 Tarlawin Road, Paradise I,
T. Mangga, SJDM, Bulacan

Lorna C. Calunod
Camacho St. Bagac, Bataan

Daryl A. Gomez
37 Copper St., Upper Quezon Hills,
Baguio City 2600

Jovito O. Manila
Canunan, Guipos, Zamboanga del Sur

Helen Grace J. Flora
Barangay Evangelical Church
Pik. Kilahanon
Brgy. Banago, Bacolod City

Antonio M. Gaoiran
Brgy. #37 Talingaan, Legazpi City

Edward M. Encarnado
Platawile, Lahug, Cebu City

Jinny C. Simbiante
Sitio Camote, Lapasutan
Barrera, Cebu City

Annalie Bastida
Langka St., 225

Jay C. Cadiz
B22 L11, Honolano St.
Katalungan Vill. Muntinlupa City

Lorenzo P. Mojica
Alt. 56 W. Buyagan, La Trinidad, Benguet

Pornamar C. Balanon
168 Camias Subd., BC

Thon Gene M. Blanca
Pik. Pepsi Zone 3
Bata Subd., Bacolod City

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Butuan City

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TSI - Southmall
UGF, Southmall, Las Piñas City

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Audionet Trading
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ADI Telecoms SM Cebu
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3/F, Robinsons Galleria, Pasig City

Joe Ann Arevalo
ADI Park Square
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North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

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TSI-Pagadian City

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Audionet SM
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Kalubihan, Talenahan

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TSI - Mega
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Audionet Trading
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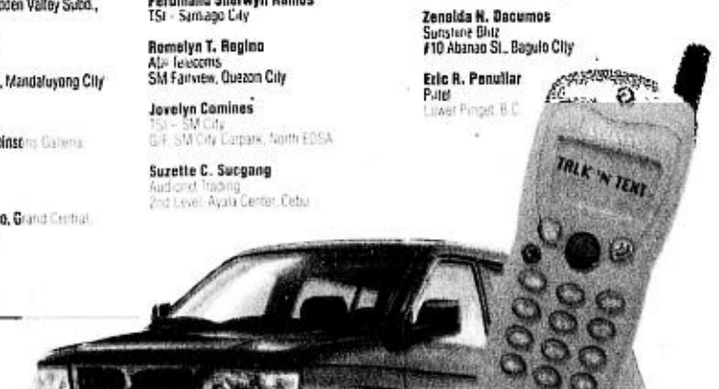

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RM honoree explains preservation to City College students

(From page E1)

ultimately to Japan. The painting brought him the first of his many awards, giving him national renown. It awakened a lifetime interest in the origins of Buddhism and its path to Japan. Hirayama expressed this interest in his paintings for the years that followed.

More important, his personal mission to Buddhism led him to explore the route that Buddhist philosophy traveled from India to Japan along the historic Silk Road that connected east to west, passing through the major trading posts and centers of culture of the Far East, Central Asia and, ultimately, Europe.

Hirayama's commitment to his mission brought him to the Silk Road each year for many decades. He walked parts of the route to trace the marks that showed the rich cultural heritage of the Silk Road, visiting ancient sites along the route: Italy, Greece, Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq, the Arabian Peninsula, Iran, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

While traveling the route, he discovered decaying works of art and neglected Buddhist shrines in many of the locations along the way. Most of them were demolished or lost by natural disasters, by civil wars, or by theft. The strong feeling of wanting to correct the sad state of preservation arose from the realization that the endangered cultural properties he saw were the treasures of mankind. He brought his realization to realty by mounting a series of international campaigns so that the cultural treasures of a number of countries could be saved.

With the financial and technical assistance of the Japanese government, he organized efforts to rehabilitate Angkor Wat in Cambodia to safeguard the ancient Koguryo tomb frescoes in North Korea, and assisted in the rescue of Chinese artifacts from the Yangtze River flood of 1998. In the spirit of reconciliation, he led a Chinese-Japanese team to rebuild the ramparts of Nanjing, one of the cities most devastated by the Japanese forces in China during World War II. Recently he led an international appeal to the Taliban to preserve rather than destroy the priceless Bamiyan Buddhas in Afghanistan.

At the recent Ramon Magsaysay Awardees' Lecture Series in Manila, Hirayama loaded his audience with the question: "Whose business is cultural preservation?"

Young students

The audience was aptly composed mostly of young students from the City College of Manila who needed to know the answer to Hirayama's question to make sense of the present struggle between conservationists and the Mayor of Manila on whether their campus should be built on Mehan Gardens or not. Actually the Mayor has already agreed to build the campus elsewhere, but that is a story for another column.

This is what Hirayama told the City College of Manila students.

Cultural heritage is what gives each country its individuality. Being aware of and taking part in the preservation of a country's unique cultural heritage is important for nation-building since it is the source of its citizens' pride of place and pride of culture. It is the unique cultural heritage of each country that sets it apart from others in the face of rising globalization.

Protecting cultural heritage, Hirayama said, is not limited to material things. It also protects the minds of the people and national values.

IKUO HIRAYAMA. A profound spiritual crisis led him on a lifetime's campaign to preserve Buddhist shrines.

A public park like the Mehan Gardens is part of our cultural and environmental heritage. Once cultural heritage is gone, it is gone forever. Hirayama brought out examples of the importance of archeology as a means of determining our history and heritage. He pointed out that in some cities, excavations for government infrastructure projects have been either stopped or rerouted to avoid damaging archeological artifacts accidentally discovered during the excavation period. Private development projects are also subject to tight archaeological control.

Preserving works of art goes hand in hand with restoring human societies because preservation helps damaged societies to reestablish kinship with their past, an action to "restore their humanity."

Everyone's business

Hirayama explained to the students that it is everyone's business to protect cultural heritage, whether the heritage in question is physical (works of art, statues, buildings, neighborhoods and parks) or heritage for the mind (religion, literature, cultural values).

Hirayama concluded by saying "as a Japanese, I feel sorry for the people of Asia who suffered from the atrocities caused by World War II when Japanese troops battled in the fields of Asian countries. To think that a great number of Asian people as well as Japanese were the victims of the war deeply hurts me."

His final message to his audience was: "I hope that we Japanese take the war as a historical precept and show our peaceful stance clearly by the promotion of the cultural movements along with the contributions of our economy and technology to the world."

The focus of 2001 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Peace and Understanding on cultural heritage sends a strong signal to countries like ours where heritage does not receive the serious attention that it deserves.

To those working in the field of cultural heritage preservation, the significance of the award given to Ikuo Hirayama is that it finally shows public appreciation for what many have felt is a thankless task. Hirayama provides the inspiration for the younger generation to take up the task of heritage preservation.

E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph

Art auction to benefit Bantay Bata

THE ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. (AFI) will hold "Saturday Art Sale" for children and the environment on Oct. 6, on the 13/F ELJ Communications Center (beside ABS-CBN Broadcasting Center), E. Lopez Sreet (formerly Sct. Albano), QC. The event will feature works by the Saturday Group of Artists to promote and raise funds for the benefit of Bantay Bata 163 and Bantay Kalikasan.

Participating artists include Jesse Alfonso, Rafael Asuncion, Joseph Auayang, Manny Baldemor, Banz Banez, Ronnie Bercero, Remy Boquiren, William Cadag, Inday Cadapan, Dante Castillo, Fernando Catague, Cris Cruz, Chuchi de Vega, Ding Dinglasan, Ed Tan, Romy Garcia, Rafael Gonzales, Omar Guerrero, Anthony Hermoso, Ben Infante, Anita Lim, Julius Limpe, Malang, Luchie Salvador, Rudy Lunod, Wilson Ma, Entes Magpusao, Claire Malanyaon, Jerome Malic, Jimmy Medina, Merci Melchor, Mark Merril, Robin Merril, Ricky Montilla, George Ng, Anthony Ong, Rell Estrella, Jonah Salvosa, Bing Siochie, Max Sumulong, Tedca, Magoo Valencia, Tony Varquez, Lydia Cruz Velasco, Frank Verano, Ed Villanueva, Inna Vitasa, Janice Young.

Works will be raffled to only 200 ticket holders, all of whom are guaranteed to take home at least one painting. Tickets are priced at P10,000 each. Each painting is worth over P10,000. Call Aya de Leon at 415-6625/6626 or 925-5255, or e-mail aya_de_leon@abs.pinoycentral.com.

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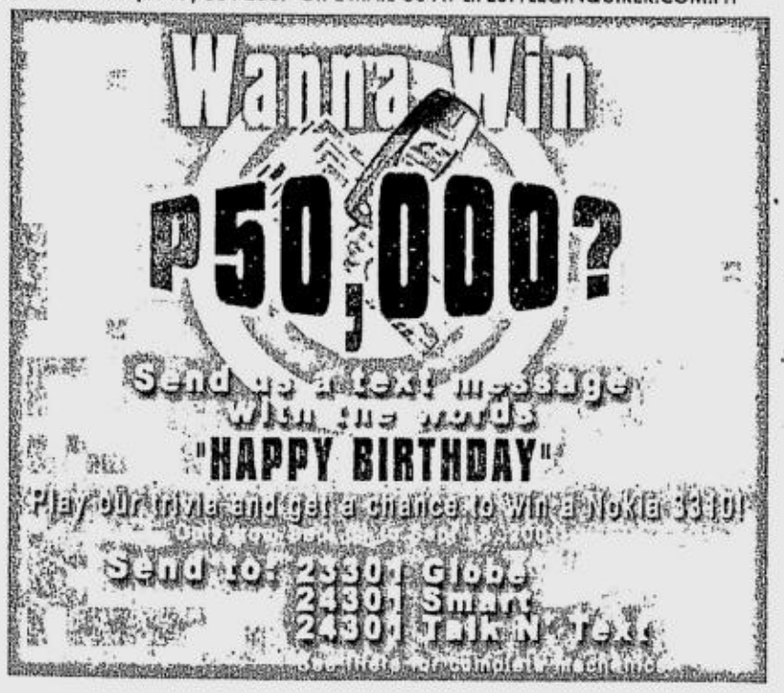
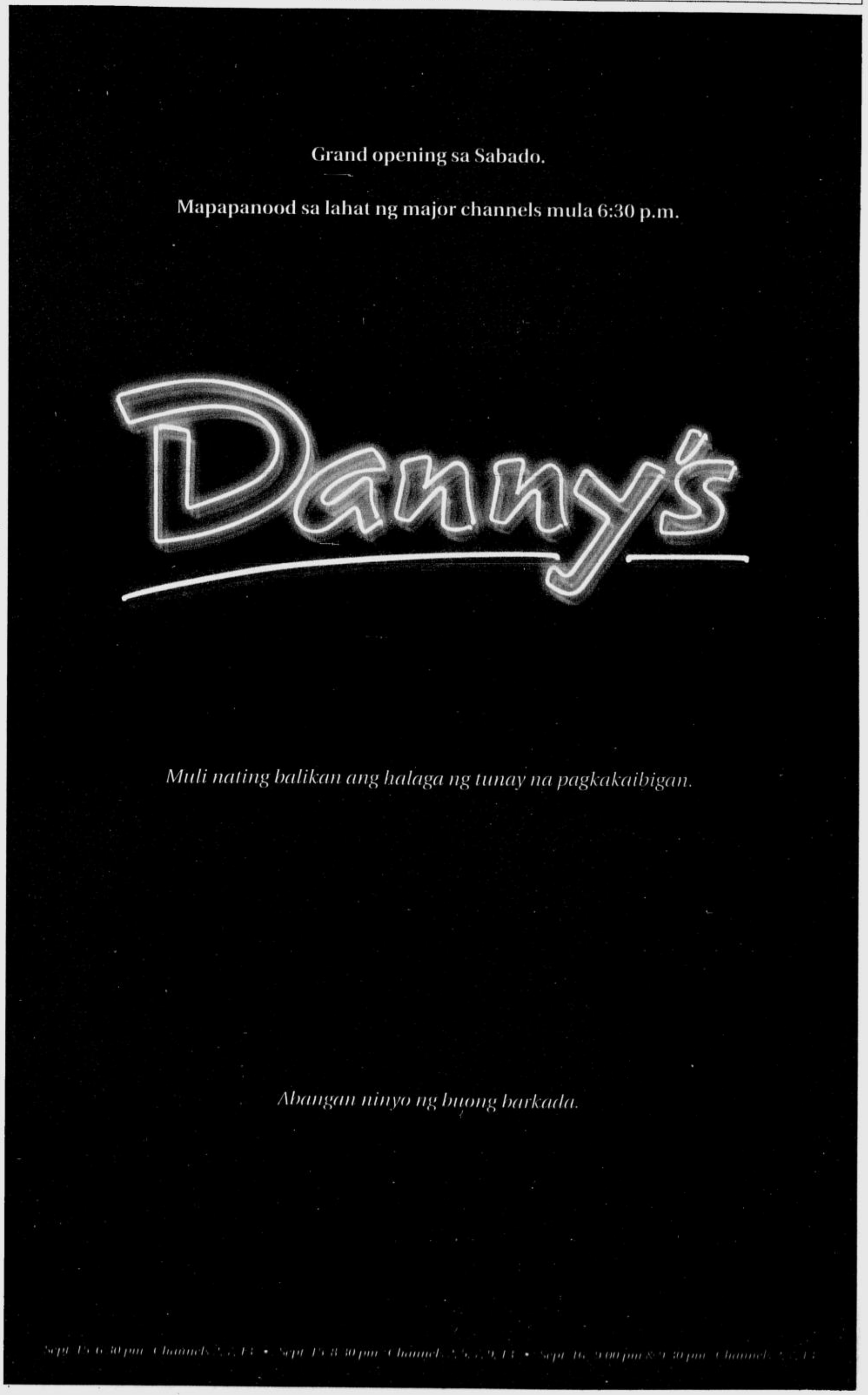
Divine write

(Story on page F4)





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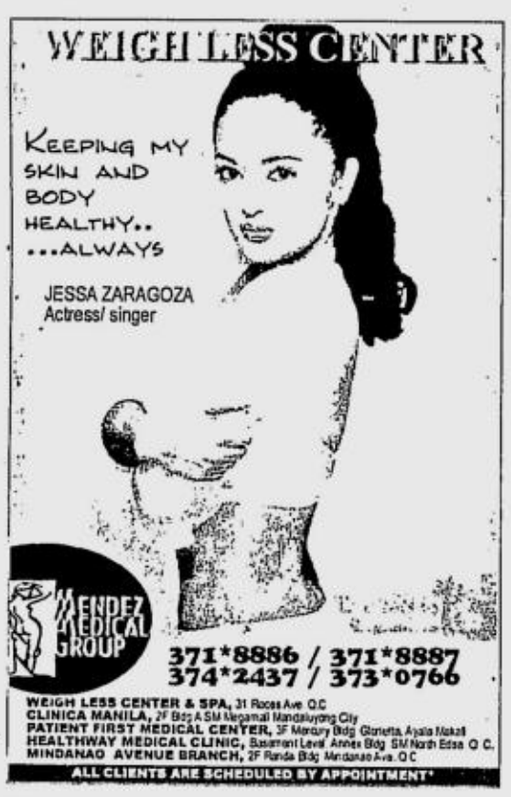

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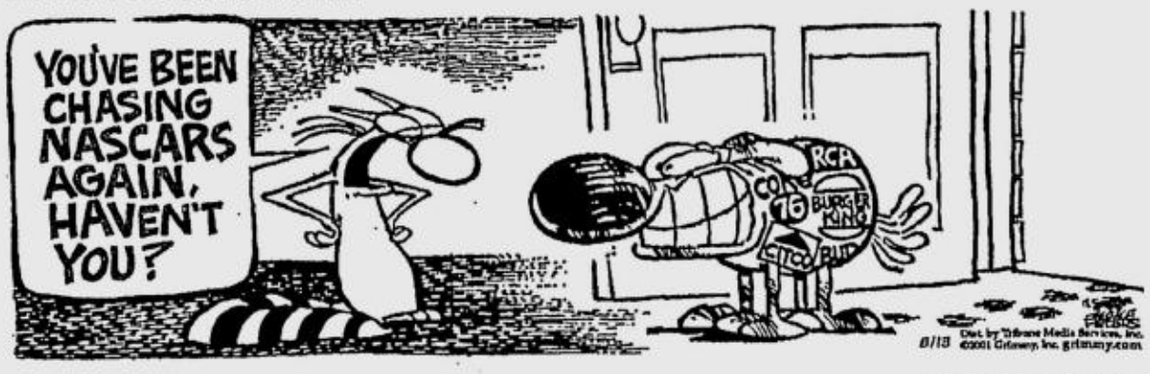
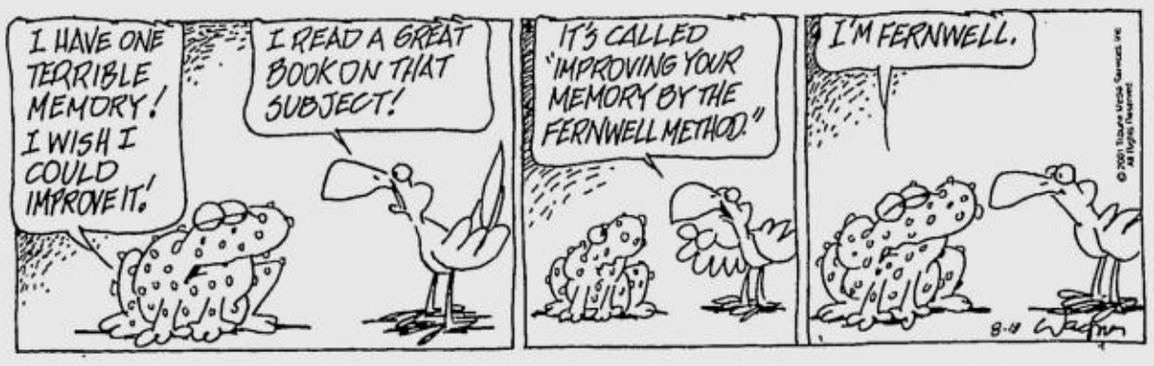


A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER



PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

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BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

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LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Arnold Palmer, Karl Lagerfeld, Amy Irving, Dan Castellaneta, Miranda Wilson, Guy Ritchie, Ryan Phillipe

Happy Birthday: Unleash the ego within and be proud of your accomplishments and talents. If you take action, you will come to terms with the past and embrace the future. Your prospects will be bright as you don't dwell on things you cannot change. Your numbers: 12, 23, 24, 33, 36, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Delays or upsets due to transportation difficulties may cause a snag in your plans. Have a back-up plan ready. You must act quickly if you want to meet your deadlines.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can make allies at work, but don't tell them all of your ideas. Your popularity will grow if you do things for them, but aren't too quick to ask for help.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Expect to be somewhat moody. You may confuse others if you change your mind all the time. Your indecisive statements and uncertain actions will be difficult to decipher.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A secret affair would lead to trouble in the workplace. If you become the topic of conversation, you will lose the respect of colleagues. A poor reputation will hinder chances for advancement.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your need to be where the action is will cost you plenty. Paying for other people in order to impress them will lead to financial setbacks. Take stock of your life and start to budget.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Are you mixed up? Your mate or best friend is sending out confusing signals, and you aren't sure what to do. Back away, observe and let whoever is playing with your emotions make the next move.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will express yourself with such conviction and devotion that others will flock to your side in support of your beliefs. Don't let this added attention go to your head, or all will be lost.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): An interesting investment opportunity will be brought to your attention. You may have to persuade others to help raise the cash or to join this venture. Expect their first reaction to be no.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you wish, you can take advantage of romantic opportunities. Your self-confidence will make you irresistible, and your spontaneity will lead to fun adventures.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can expect to be praised if you focus on the job you are doing. Put your best foot forward and dazzle everyone with your progress.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can do no wrong. The time has come to feel good about yourself and confident that you can do whatever you like. Believe in yourself, and so will everyone else.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Expect someone around you to be a whiner today. Try to talk about it, but if that fails, it's best to distance yourself for a while. This is a time to be learning, not teaching.

Birthday Baby: You are dashing, daring and debonair. Your colorful, comforting manner will make you popular. You will have a wonderful outlook on life with

DAILY CROSSWORD

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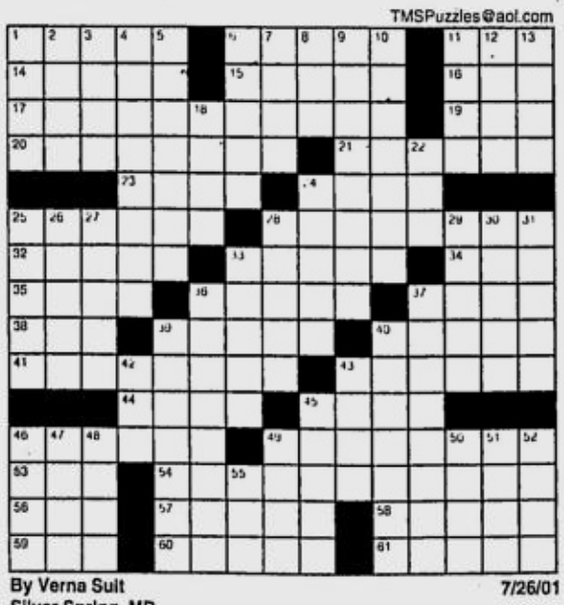

ACROSS
1 Volkswagen model
6 Something to plight?
11 Actress Ruby
14 Word with renewal or sprawl
15 Sun: pref.
16 Flock leader
17 Chinese gifts
19 Appendage
20 York's rank
21 With agility
23 Formerly
24 Watch winder
25 Gorge
28 Plucky
32 Activity area
33 Race type
34 __ Dawn Chong
35 Circular instrument
36 Italian fashion center
37 Adorable
38 Drs.' group
39 Breadbasket
40 Confession of faith
41 Wages
43 Gathers with parallel stitches
44 Squarish
45 Create yarn
46 Zambia neighbor
49 Striking sharply
53 Writer Levin
54 Chinese gift recipient
56 Brown of music
57 Silly
58 Rock full of crystals
59 __ Palmas
60 __ on (incited)
61 Stranger

DOWN
1 Moonshine containers
2 Buffalo's lake
3 Slope conveyance
4 Dancing a ballr[illegible]
5 Ins[illegible]
6 Macbeth title
7 Cloth tear
8 Over the hill
9 Chinese gift's name
10 Stockings
11 Dreary
12 British peer
13 TV award
18 Walk the floor
22 # of Kubrick's movie?
24 Spread wide
25 Hindu tunes
26 Smell
27 Corruptible
28 Markets
29 Less a lie?
30 Muncher
31 Title papers
33 Hoosier poet James Whitcomb
36 Chinese gift's name
37 Rustled
39 Camera type
40 Home of [illegible]
43 Breadth
45 Furnished with footwear
46 Eliot novel, "The __ on the Floss"
49 Sommelier's concern
50 Alligator-logo brand
51 Protuberance
52 Church or movie [illegible]

By Verna Suit
Silver Spring, MD

7/26/01

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

S	H	E	A	■	L	O	M	A	■	A	L	O	H	A
H	U	A	C	■	E	C	O	N	■	R	U	M	O	R
O	S	S	A	■	S	C	O	T	■	T	R	E	N	T
W	H	Y	D	O	S	U	R	E	T	H	I	N	G	S
■	■	■	E	V	E	R	■	■	H	U	N	■	■	■
M	E	R	M	A	N	■	E	M	E	R	G	E	N	T
O	N	A	I	R	■	A	V	E	R	■	■	N	O	R
A	L	W	A	Y	S	G	E	T	M	E	I	N	T	O
T	A	E	■	■	P	I	N	E	■	C	R	U	E	T
S	I	R	L	O	I	N	S	■	P	L	A	I	D	S
■	■	■	A	W	E	■	■	C	L	A	N	■	■	■
N	O	W	I	N	S	I	T	U	A	T	I	O	N	S
E	V	A	D	E	■	S	O	R	T	■	A	R	I	L
R	E	C	U	R	■	E	R	I	E	■	N	A	N	O
D	R	O	P	S	■	E	Y	E	S	■	S	N	A	G

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7/26/01

BOOK-SIGNING session by Neal Donald Walsh, author of "Conversations with God"

ADRIAN Ramos, Powerbooks operations manager, unveils the Power Card.

ADARNA House and Family Readers hold story-telling session.

Reader-power at PowerBooks

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One such service is a monthly newsletter which keeps customers abreast of in-store news, recommended reads, upcoming book-related events. Supplemental to this is the PowerBooks online (www.powerbooks.com.ph), a website where customers can check the availability of books as well as find out more background information on them. For customers who already know what titles they want, shopping can practically be done from the convenience of their homes as PowerBooks delivers for free within Metro Manila for purchases worth at least P2,000. The store also enables customers to make special orders and get hard-to-find titles directly from the publishers. Other services include gift-wrapping, check accommodation and bridal/birthday registry.

PowerBooks also organizes various special events every month, such as book launchings, visits and autograph sessions by authors, during which customers get a chance to meet their admired authors. Every now and then, resource speakers are invited to give talks or seminars on many diverse topics, such as writing children's literature, drawing animé or empowering teens. The store hosts a monthly open mic poetry reading sessions. Furthermore, the shop sometimes doubles as an art gallery or music appreciation hall.

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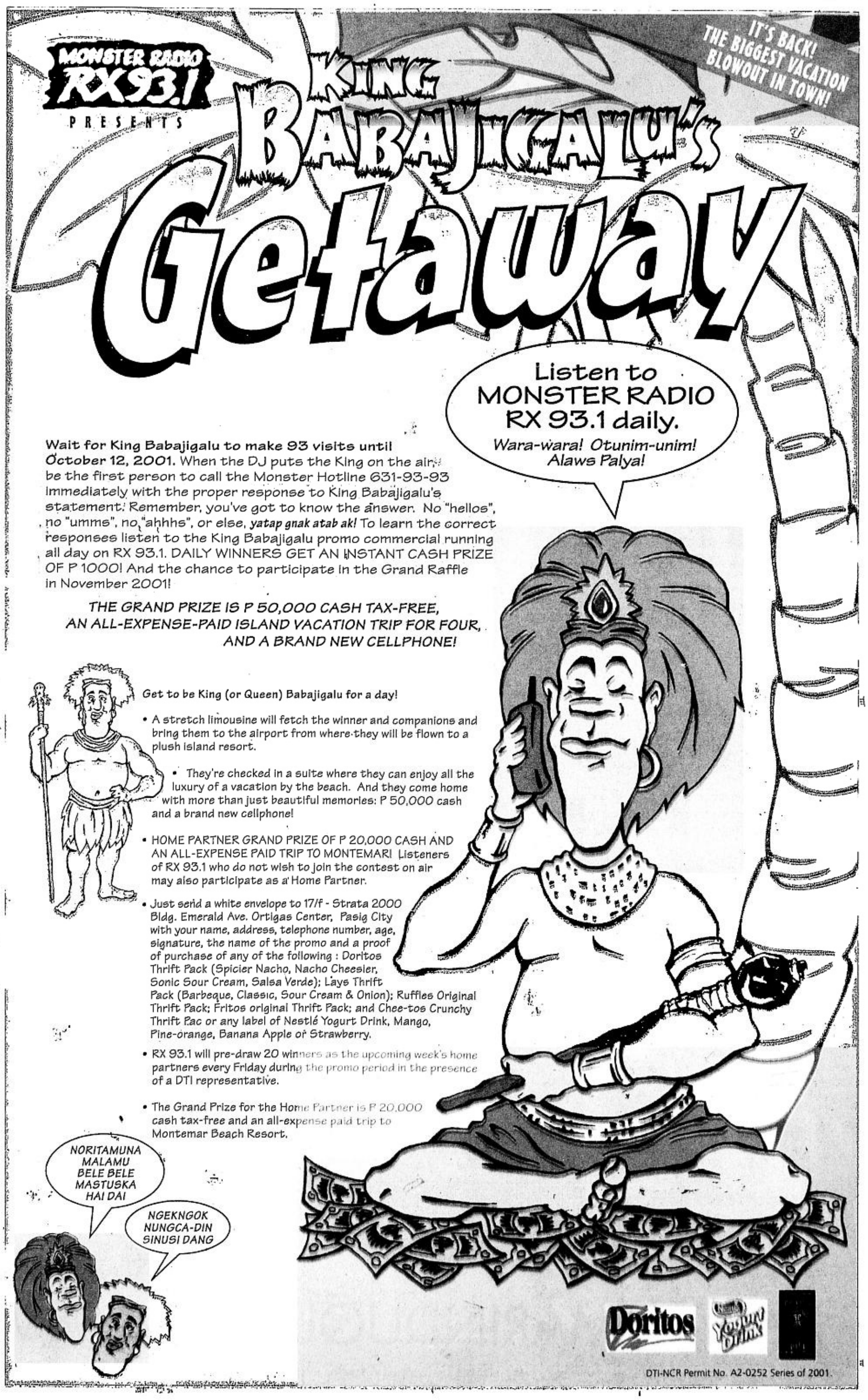

SECOND PART OF 'IN THE COMPANY OF GOD' RELEASED

BOOK II of "In the Company of God" is now out. Authored by former education undersecretary A. W. Clemente, the book continues the messages purportedly received from God about the Earth's condition, the reduction of its population and the need to adopt a "pro-God, pro-people and pro-nature" attitude. It describes life in other plants and the existence of angels and spirits. It also describes God's sense of humor, healing and extra-terrestrial beings. "I am just God's stenographer," says the author. Book III is now in the works. Copies of Books I and II are available at Sulo Hotel in Quezon City and the UP Tennis Club. Call 836-4844.

Learning tape for children now out

ALL-NATIONS Publishing Company has released a new alphabet tape for children. This cassette tape accompanies the best-selling preschool book "God and Me in the World of Phonics."

The tape is the first locally produced learning tape of its kind. It welcomes children ages 2 and up into the exciting world of phonics. An entertaining teacher called Adam the Ant calls on his young friends to help teach the alphabet through a mixture of bright voices, lively songs and friendly characters. It's sure to make learning the alphabet fun and adventurous.

Visit your nearest bookstore or call All-Nations Publishing Company at 912-2445. You can also meet Adam the Ant—the mascot—at the Philippine Bookfair on Sept. 1-9, Booth 42 at the Mega Trade Hall, 5/L of the SM Megamall.

Divine write

American Gods
By Neil Gaiman
Headline Book Publishing, London, 2001, 502 pages

BY RUEL S. DE VERA

REVIEW

BY THE TIME readers discover how Thor killed himself in page 327 of Neil Gaiman's "American Gods," the idea that gods and other mythical beings can have problems and, yes, even commit suicide is already a fairly believable notion. Gaiman, while best known for his exquisite Sandman graphic novels, has always been a delightful storyteller in any medium, as his novels "Stardust" and "Neverwhere" have proven.

But it is with "American Gods" that Gaiman perhaps displays the full range of his narrative and imaginative prowess, welding together age-old stories with the edgy vibe of the present. A hefty 500-page pantheon by itself, "American Gods" is a cavalcade of ethereal beings in modern-day dress, but it is also a dizzying tour de force of fiction: one divine read.

The premise, that the gods of old are still with us today albeit pale versions of themselves because of a lack of devotion from the people who have forgotten them, is a favorite Gaiman theme, discussed most succinctly in the Sandman books "Seasons of Mist" and "Brief Lives." Gaiman ups the ante by placing the gods in America, having been transported in the minds of their worshippers to this land that is fundamentally unfit for deities such as them.

But now, the new gods of technology and modernity are eager to take over, and to do so, they must wipe out what remains of the old pantheon. A war between beings of belief old and new is about to take place. "American Gods" brings the reader to the backstage of this conflict.

At the heart of that war is Shadow, a good man just released from prison. A master of sleight of hand, he is also a crucial piece in his puzzle. Looking forward to a new life, Shadow discovers his wife has died—and was apparently cheating on him. He now finds himself in the strange service of a man known as Wednesday, or the All-Father, or Odin. Shadow pals around with leprechauns, Anansi the Spider, the cat god Bast and a man with a buffalo head. Oh, and his wife comes back from the dead.

Odin is leading the old gods against the new ones in what he calls a battle for survival in his hostile land of America, and Shadow is his right hand man. But as the motley group moves across the states in search of allies, Shadow begins to see that there is another plot being unearthed, another truth behind the smoke and mirrors.

Gaiman's prose is fresh and simply scrumptious. While displaying his encyclopedic knowledge of different religions and pantheons, he weaves poetic lines together with humorous one-liners that keeps "American Gods" moving forward. The Jackal-headed god Anubis is, for example, working as an undertaker while Wednesday is a horny, crafty swindler. He piles on supplemental stories to beef up his adventure and uses dreams (again, a favorite device) to propel the sub-plot forward. His best suit here is the characterization. The gods are all interesting, well-fleshed out characters with distinctive voices and personalities. Like his best creation, Dream of the Endless, Gaiman's Shadow is a reflective, eternally curious and precocious protagonist. Though, like Dream, Shadow is somewhat nebulous and prone to sudden revelations through his, uh, dreams, he is also a sympathetic character with his personal troubles and quest for peace of mind, effectively drawing the readers' attention and maintaining it. The subplot regarding his wife Laura is notably heartfelt. When Shadow discovers who he really is and what is truly going on, the readers feel the clarity as well.

"American Gods," however, is a serious piece of work that requires the reader's full concentration. The narrative gets very dense in parts and the add-on stories can get a bit distracting. Furthermore, those who are familiar with Gaiman's previous work might find the book's direction a little obvious, while those completely unacquainted with literature about the gods that walk among us may instead find themselves lost in the thicket of explanations. Yet Gaiman has enough panache to actually portray the battle between gods as a slick, noirish tale of deception.

Despite those quibbles, Gaiman endows Shadow, and the whole of "American Gods," with an inspired power of its own, leading readers on an original, thoroughly satisfying adventure that stays with the reader long after the book has been read. This is imagination unleashed and harnessed on the highest level, and readers will be extremely fortunate to commune with dramatic, magical books like this one. "American Gods" features Neil Gaiman at the peak of his prose powers, and readers will be in awe at this book, every one, in effect, worshipping at the very altar of creativity.

Available in paperback from Powerbooks and selected National Bookstore branches.

Mindanao writing center established

DR. Eldigario D. Gonzales, president of Western Mindanao State University (WMSU), recently announced the establishment of the university's Center for Creative Writing.

The Center aims to promote and develop regional literature by providing venues for the conduct of creative writing workshops, conferences and seminars as well as granting four-week fellowships for a writers' retreat.

Placed directly under the Office of the President of WMSU, the Center also aims to preserve written literature through translations in the dominant regional languages, and make these available to the various tribes in Mindanao.

As the first creative writing center established outside Metro Manila, the Center will help develop and strengthen, let alone publish, regional literature.

The Center will be headed by multiawarded novelist Antonio Enriquez, who received last year the SEAWrite or SouthEast Asian Writers Award from Thai royalty in Bangkok, and has also been a Grand Prize for the Novel awardee of the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards in Literature.

ALFRED A. Yuson (second from left) and Leoncio Deriada (right) were inducted into the Palanca Hall of Fame for winning the Palanca first prize five times. Yuson won first prize in English poetry for his collection "Pillage and Other Poems" while Deriada won first prize in the drama category. With them are Nemie Bermejo, director general of the awards Sylvia Palanca-Quirino and Andres Battung.

Toast to Palanca winners and book launch mark UST writing center's anniversary

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Center for Creative Writing and Studies (UST-CCWS) will celebrate its anniversary on Sept. 12 by toasting its associates who won prizes at the 2001 Palanca Literary Awards and by launching new titles by its resident writers.

Highlight of the celebration is the thanksgiving Mass at 1 p.m. to be celebrated by Fr. John Funelas, O.P., dean of the UST Ecclesiastical Faculty of Philosophy, and the launching of Tomas 4, the official literary journal of UST.

The program proper at 2 p.m. will pay tribute to recent Palanca winners such as UST junior associates for poetry Michael Coroza and Rebecca Anonuevo, who won first and second prizes in *tula*, respectively, and junior associate for drama Jose Victor Torres, who won first prize in the one-act play in Filipino category.

To be launched are the newest titles of writing associates published by the UST Publishing House: "Nakatanim ng Granada ang Diyos" by Anonuevo, "Shadowboxing and Headphones" by Lourd Ernest de Veyra and "Tracks Without Giants" by Ramil Gulle.

Also to be launched is "Vital Flow: Essays" by Cebu-based writer Erma Cuizon, editor of the Weekend Star, the Sunday magazine of the Sun Star of Cebu.

The new issue of Tomas, edited by UST-CCWS senior associate and National Artist F. Sionil Jose, includes recent writings by Linda Ty-Casper, Merle Alunan, Elmer Ordonez, Doris Trinidad, Ophelia Dimalanta, Christine Ortega and Leonard Casper.

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PIANIST SUNICO JOINS 'QUADRILLE'

PIANO ensemble pieces by Ravel, Borodin, Bolcom, Milhaud, Rachmaninoff and Liszt, along with works by Filipino composers Cayabyab, Cuenco and Velarde will comprise "Quadrille," a concert featuring pianists Mary Ann R. Armovit, Anamaria G. de Guzman and Della G. Besa with the special participation of Raul M. Sunico on Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m., at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCIBank, H. de la Costa Street, Makati City. "Quadrille" is a repeat of a performance first given in the Philippine Center in New York City last year, and is meant to be a thanksgiving concert in honor of the artists' friends and supporters. Equitable PCIBank has generously made the F. Santiago Hall available to the event without charge, in an affirmation of its role as pioneer advocate and promoter of the arts in Makati.

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